



Infected cruise ship unloads passengers in California

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
and DAISY NGUYEN
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The cruise ship forced to idle for days off the coast of California because of a cluster of coronavirus cases aboard arrived in port Monday, and officials began transferring thousands of passengers to military bases for quarantine or returning them to their home countries.

The Grand Princess pulled into the Port of Oakland with more than 3,500 people aboard — 21 confirmed to be infected with the new virus. Passengers lining the balconies waved and some left the cabins where they had been in isolation to go on deck.



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The Grand Princess arrives in San Francisco on Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press



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In this courtroom sketch Joshua Schulte, center, is seated at the defense table flanked by his attorneys during jury deliberations, Wednesday March 4, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

Minor convictions for ex-CIA coder in hacking tools case

By LARRY NEUMEISTER and JIM MUSTIAN

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A former CIA software engineer accused of stealing a massive trove of the agency's hacking tools and handing it over to WikiLeaks was convicted of only minor charges Monday, after a

jury deadlocked on the more serious espionage counts against him.

Joshua Schulte, who worked as a coder at the agency's headquarters in Langley, Virginia, was convicted by a jury of contempt of court and making false statements after a four-week trial in Manhattan federal court that offered an unusual window into the CIA's digital sleuthing and the team that designs computer code to spy on foreign adversaries. After deliberating since last week, the jury was unable to reach a verdict on the more significant charges. They had notified U.S. District Judge Paul A. Crotty on Friday that they had reached consensus on two counts, but were unable to reach a verdict on eight others.

After they were instructed to resume deliberations Monday, jurors sent a note saying they were "extremely deadlocked."

One juror said as she left the courthouse that the jury was always split down the middle on the most serious counts, although the jury was composed of only 11 people after one juror was dismissed last week when she told the panel she had come across news about the Schulte case before the trial.

Juror Alexis Anthony said she never thought the evidence was strong enough to convict Schulte of espionage-related charges.

"For me, I never felt the burden of proof was proved," she said.

Prosecutors portrayed Schulte as a disgruntled software engineer who exploited a little-known back

door in a CIA network to copy the hacking arsenal without raising suspicion, in what was said to be the largest leak in CIA history involving classified information.

It was only after the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks published the so-called Vault 7 leak in 2017 — nearly a year after the theft — that the agency scrambled to determine how the information had been stolen. It identified Schulte, a 31-year-old originally from Lubbock, Texas, as the prime suspect.

Schulte had left the agency on stormy terms after falling out with colleagues and supervisors, and prosecutors described the leak as an act of revenge.

The data dump revealed CIA efforts to hack Apple and Android smartphones and even described efforts to turn internet-connected televisions into listening devices.

"These leaks were devastating to national security," Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Laroche told jurors. "The CIA's cyber tools were gone in an instant. Intelligence gathering operations around the world stopped immediately."

But the defense said the prosecution failed to present a clear case or show how they could be sure Schulte was the culprit.

Even after presenting a month of testimony, 18 witnesses and more than 1,000 exhibits, "the government still is not able to answer for you the very basic questions," defense attorney Sabrina Shroff told jurors. "There are more questions now than when this trial first began." □

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Infected cruise ship unloads passengers in California

Continued from Front

As the ship sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge to enter the harbor, passenger Karen Schwartz Dever said "everyone was hollering and clapping."

Twenty-three people who needed acute medical care had been taken off the ship by late Monday afternoon, but it was not clear how many of them had tested positive for the virus, said Shawn Boyd, a spokesman for the California Office of Emergency Services. Live TV footage showed at least one passenger, an older man wearing a face mask, climbing onto a stretcher and being lifted into the back of an ambulance. Officials have said the unloading will take up to three days.

"Our intent is to basically disembark about half the passengers today. Everyone will be screened initially today," said Robert Kadlec, assistant secretary of Health and Human Services Services.

Workers wearing gloves and yellow protective gear erected a large tent by a platform where passengers were disembarking, and two tents displaying Canadian flags were also on the tarmac. At least 20 buses and five ambulances waited. Canada and the UK were among the countries sending chartered flights to take home citizens.

U.S. passengers will be flown or bused from the port — chosen for its proximity to an airport and a military base — to bases in California, Texas and Georgia for testing and a 14-day quarantine. The ship is carrying people from 54 countries, and foreigners will be whisked home.

About 1,100 crew members, 19 of whom have test-

ed positive for COVID-19, will be quarantined and treated aboard the ship, which will dock elsewhere after passengers are unloaded, California Gov. Gavin Newsom has said.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

In an effort to stop the virus from spreading, Italy will impose travel restrictions and other strict public health measures nationwide starting Tuesday. And a combination of coronavirus fears and plunging oil prices sent stocks on Wall Street plummeting Monday.

The virus has infected 600 people in the United States — including the director of the agency that runs the airports in New York and New Jersey — and at least 26 have died, most in Washington state. Surgeon General Jerome Adams said communities will need to start thinking about canceling large gatherings, closing schools and letting more employees work from home, as many companies have done after an outbreak in the Seattle area.

NASA's Ames Research Center in California's Silicon Valley is essentially closed with restricted access be-



Tents stand on a wharf near the Grand Princess at the Port of Oakland in Oakland, Calif., Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press

cause an employee tested positive Sunday for the coronavirus. Workers will be on "mandatory telework status" and three Earth science airplane missions are being delayed to later this year, the county said.

Several universities have begun online-only courses, including the University of Washington, Stanford University and Columbia University. The largest school district in Northern California, with 64,000 students,

canceled classes for a week when it was discovered a family in the district was exposed to COVID-19. Georgia's fourth-largest school district, which has more than 93,000 students, closed its schools for at least one day after a teacher at two middle schools was confirmed to have the coronavirus.

The Grand Princess had been held off the coast since Wednesday because of evidence that it was the breeding ground for more than 20 infections tied to a previous voyage.

Passengers from the previous voyage have tested positive in California and other states. Six Canadians who were on the Grand Princess from Feb. 11 to 21 were also confirmed to have the virus. □

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Edited Biden video portends social media challenges in 2020

By **AMANDA SEITZ and DAVID KLEPPER**

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — As former Vice President Joe Biden's drive for the White House gains momentum, the 77-year-old's political opponents on both the right and left have launched an internet campaign suggesting he's not mentally or physically equipped to serve — sometimes using altered content and other disinformation to make their case.

The effort prompted Twitter on Monday to mark a video of Biden shared by President Donald Trump as "manipulated media" — but only after it had been viewed millions of times. Facebook added warning labels to the video and reduced its distribution on its platform after news organizations fact checked the video on its site. The Associated Press works with Facebook as a third-party fact checker.

The episode highlights the challenges social media companies face in containing the rapid spread of misleading information and raises questions about how prepared the companies are for a likely onslaught of disinformation during the 2020 campaign. It also underscores that trafficking in misinformation is not limited to one political party: Both Sanders' and Trump's backers aggressively promoted the unsubstantiated notion that Biden is in cognitive decline.

"This is the worst kind of misinformation — it can impact a presidential election, and it's being shared by the president with millions of followers," said Jennifer Grygiel, a Syracuse University communications professor who studies disinformation and social me-



Former Vice President Joe Biden speaks at a campaign stop on Monday, March 9, 2020 at Berston Field House in Flint, Mich.

dia. "We're going to see a lot more of it, and we need the platforms to get this right."

All in their 70s, Biden, Sanders and Trump have faced questions about their stamina or mental acumen, though each has produced letters from physicians attesting to his fitness for office. Sanders — who, like Biden, would be the oldest president ever elected — suffered a heart attack last year. Biden has long had a penchant for verbal miscues throughout his political career. And Trump has directly tried to combat questions about his mental fitness, tweeting in 2018 that he is a "very stable genius."

The unproven claims about Biden's fitness for office have emerged from the left and right with increasing frequency following the former vice president's sweeping victories during last week's Super Tuesday contests. And they accelerated after Biden returned to the campaign trail on Saturday with a brief

speech in St. Louis.

Sanders' campaign manager, Faiz Shakir, pointedly noted on Twitter that his 78-year-old boss had three campaign events on his schedule that day, "each speaking engagement extending for close to an hour."

Later in the day, Trump tweeted a misleadingly edited video clip from Biden's 15-minute stump speech in Kansas City, Missouri.

During the speech, Biden appeared to stumble over his words when he said: "We cannot win this reelection — excuse me, we can only reelect Donald Trump if, in fact, we get engaged in this circular firing squad here."

Conservative and pro-Trump social media accounts first seized on the gaffe Saturday evening, sharing a fuller clip. But White House social media director Dan Scavino later shared a further edited version in which Biden appears to say: "We can only reelect Donald Trump." Trump retweeted Scavino's

Associated Press

post. Different versions of the video were quickly shared by Twitter accounts affiliated with Trump's campaign Saturday night over a three-hour period, noted Gideon Blocq, the CEO of VineSight, a tech company that surfaces misinformation online.

Combined, the various versions of the edited clip were watched more than 10 million times by Monday afternoon.

The Biden campaign responded to the video with incredulity and noted that the former vice president has kept up a whirlwind schedule in recent weeks. The supposed evidence of his decline, they noted, comes from public appearances with voters and reporters present.

"It's revealing that Donald Trump and his campaign keep admitting, through their reliance on desperate smears, that they can't beat Joe Biden with the truth," said Biden spokesman Andrew Bates.

Bates added a dig at Sanders supporters who have

echoed many of the Republican attacks on Biden. "Any 'Democrat' who aligns themselves with Trump by amplifying his disinformation," Bates said, "will soon learn that they can't beat the vice president with wild-eyed lies, either."

Identifying, labeling and removing false claims or edited videos is emerging as a key challenge to tech platforms that have been criticized on both sides of the political spectrum.

Twitter's decision to mark the Biden video as "manipulated media" was the first test of a new policy of labeling and — in some cases removing — manipulated images designed to mislead. But even that effort failed to take hold for some social media users because of a technical error, a Twitter spokesman said Monday. It declined to say whether it had labeled other versions of the edited video.

Trump allies blasted Twitter's decision to label the edited video as "manipulated."

Trump legal adviser Jenna Ellis called criticism of the edited video, which she also shared, "insanely dishonest" on Twitter. She said people are missing the point: "The point is the gaffe. DUH."

Liberal and pro-Sanders social media accounts have been promoting the idea that Biden is in "cognitive decline" on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter in recent days.

A two-minute video montage of Biden's gaffes on the campaign trail titled "Joe Biden's sharp cognitive decline (please share, voters need to know)" has been viewed nearly 300,000 times since it was posted to a "populist" news and commentary YouTube page on Saturday. □

First recreational pot shop in a major East Coast city opens

By PHILIP MARCELO

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Boston's first pot shop opened Monday, marking the first recreational marijuana store to open in a major East Coast city.

Pure Oasis is also among the few retail stores in the country owned and operated by people of color, who experts say have struggled to break into the industry. Massachusetts' ballot initiative was the first to insert specific language aimed at encouraging people of color and others harmed by the war on drugs to participate in the new industry.

Matt Simon, New England political director for the Marijuana Policy Project, hailed the opening as a "huge milestone" for the East Coast, where most jurisdictions — save for Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine and the District of Columbia — have approved cannabis for medicinal use only.

"This is only the beginning," he said. "The fact that this is just the first in Boston shows how this is such an early market on this coast."

But the store's opening also underscores how minority entrepreneurs are already falling behind in the national industry, despite promises they would be prioritized, said Kayvan Khalatbari, a Denver-based marijuana consultant and former

board member for the Minority Cannabis Business Association.

"It's worthy of acknowledgement, but at the same time, it's nothing to celebrate," he said. "We've got a long way to go before creating equity."

Few of the 11 states that have legalized marijuana track how many people of color own pot companies, Khalatbari said, so industry groups have turned to their own surveys.

In Colorado, which was one of the first to legalize marijuana, in 2012, less than 1% of all marijuana operations are owned by people of color, the Minority Cannabis Business Association has estimated. In California, which legalized recreational marijuana use in 2016, about 20% of cannabis companies have some degree of ownership stake from a person of color, according to a recent survey by Marijuana Business Daily.

But it's not just about increasing minority ownership of pot businesses, Khalatbari and other advocates. Minority and disadvantaged communities should also benefit through more jobs for residents or other community investments.

Pure Oasis owners Kobie Evans and Kevin Hart say they picked Dorchester, a



Kevin Hart, front left, co-owner of Pure Oasis recreational marijuana shop, completes a sale of cannabis products to the store's first customer Niambe McIntosh, front right, moments after the store opened for the first time, Monday, March 9, 2020, in Boston.

Associated Press

dense and diverse neighborhood about 4 miles south of downtown Boston, with those needs in mind. Among their 30 or so staffers are residents who live within walking distance from the shop, as well as people with prior criminal records, said Evans.

"The war on drugs had a very detrimental impact on neighborhoods like this," Evans said after letting in the store's first wave of 50 or so customers.

"We're here to try and remedy some of those negative effects. We're trying to give people second

changes and create new opportunities."

Niambe McIntosh, who is the daughter of the late Jamaican reggae star Peter Tosh and grew up a few blocks from the storefront, said its opening is a "victory" for families like hers that have been harmed by the war on drugs.

McIntosh's father was a cannabis activist famous for the song "Legalize It," and her brother, Jawara McIntosh, suffered severe brain injuries after being attacked by another inmate while serving a sentence for marijuana-related charges

in 2017.

"This moves the needle towards justice," said McIntosh after making the first official purchase at the store.

Renee Brown, a 52-year-old Dorchester resident who was among those waiting hours before the store opened Monday, agreed.

"Hopefully this brings in new money and investment and helps build up this neighborhood," she said after purchasing some marijuana patches that she hopes will help with her persistent knee and back pain. □

Plan outlined for donations in Pittsburgh synagogue attack

PITTSBURGH (AP) — About \$5.5 million that poured in from donors after the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue attack that killed 11 worshippers is being distributed according to a plan outlined Monday by Jewish groups. The largest share, just over \$3 million, will go to the families of those killed and to two people who were seriously injured. Donations are also being distributed to people who were in the Tree of Life building during the attack, in honor of first responders and to the congregations.

The payouts are based on recommendations by an independent, volunteer committee created by



This Oct. 27, 2019 file photo shows passers by pausing outside the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh on the first anniversary of the shooting at the synagogue, that killed 11 worshippers.

the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

The group's report issued in February said donors probably expected their gifts

to help Tree of Life, which owns the building, as well as the two tenant congregations, Dor Hadash and New Light. □

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Trump wants payroll tax relief to calm virus-spooked markets

By ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Monday his administration will ask Congress to pass payroll tax relief and other quick measures as a public health and economic maelstrom brought on by the coronavirus drew closer to him personally.

Intending to calm the fears of financial markets over the impact of the epidemic, Trump told reporters he is seeking "very substantial relief" to the payroll tax. Trump also said he was seeking help for hourly-wage workers to ensure they're "not going to miss a paycheck" and "don't get penalized for something that's not their fault."

He stepped forward with the contours of an initiative after markets dropped sharply and as the outbreak spread. Several Trump confidants in Congress disclosed they were isolating themselves after potential exposure to the virus; one traveled with the president from Florida on Air Force One on Monday. Trump said he would hold a press conference Tuesday to outline the proposals, saying his administration and Congress would be "discussing a possible payroll tax cut or relief, substantial relief, very substantial relief, that's big, that's a big number. We're also going to be talking about hourly wage earners getting help so that they can be in a position where they're not going to ever miss a paycheck."

As Trump grappled with an epidemic whose consequences he has repeatedly played down, the White House asserted it was conducting "business as usual." But the day's business was anything but normal. Lawmakers pressed for details on how the Capitol could be made secure, handshakes on the Hill were discouraged and a Pentagon meeting was broken into sub-groups to minimize the number of people in the same room.

The president himself dove into handshakes with sup-



President Donald Trump steps from the podium to allow Vice President Mike Pence to speak in the briefing room of the White House in Washington, Monday, March, 9, 2020, about the coronavirus outbreak.

porters earlier in the day, when arriving to headline a fundraiser in Longwood, Florida, that raised approximately \$4 million for his re-election campaign and the Republican Party.

On his flight back to Washington he was accompanied by Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, who later went into a voluntary quarantine. He was one of several GOP lawmakers who were exposed to a person at last month's Conservative Political Action Conference who tested positive for the virus. His office said he was "mid-flight" on Air Force One when CPAC informed his staff that he had been in contact with the attendee who had the virus.

Once the plane landed, Gaetz was immediately tested.

Vice President Mike Pence, who also spoke at CPAC, said he has not been tested for the virus. He said he did not know whether Trump had been tested.

In Monday morning tweets, Trump vented about the market drop and news that large public gatherings were being called off because of the virus.

"At this moment there are 546 confirmed cases of CoronaVirus, with 22 deaths," Trump tweeted, comparing it to seasonal influenza and the thousands of deaths that causes.

"Think about that!"

Scientists at this stage don't know what the death rate of the new coronavirus actually is and whether it will wind up being about the same as flu or worse.

At the same time, administration officials were insistent that they weren't trying to dismiss public concerns. "This is a very serious health problem," Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told Fox News.

At the Pentagon, officials have begun "social distancing" measures.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper's regular meeting with senior staff, which normally would be held face-to-face in a single room with 40 to 50 participants, was broken up into three rooms, with video-teleconferencing among the rooms, according to the Pentagon's chief spokesman, Jonathan Hoffman. He said Esper and the 15 to 20 people in his room, including Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, sat at least six feet apart, in line with health guidance.

Trump was delegating much of the virus response to Pence, who convened a video teleconference to give an update on the federal government's virus response Monday afternoon with the nation's governors. Trump met his top econom-

ic advisers before emerging to disclose he'll seek the payroll tax break.

The White House has been convening meetings with an array of travel and healthcare industry representatives, and was set to host Wall Street executives at the White House on Wednesday to discuss the economic fallout of the epidemic.

On Capitol Hill, where many lawmakers are older and have frequent contact with the public, leaders were fielding questions from members and staff about how the complex will be secured. Leaders have so far shown little willingness to close the Capitol, but meetings were scheduled throughout the day to discuss preparations.

On Monday, Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga., and Gaetz put themselves in voluntary quarantine because of their contacts with someone at the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Both said they did not have any symptoms but would wait out the remainder of the 14 days since the contact at home. Gaetz last week wore a gas mask to the House vote on the emergency funding bill for the virus response and said he wanted to highlight how Congress could become "petri dish" for the virus.

Collins met Trump on Tuesday night at the White House and shook hands with him Friday when the president visited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Atlanta headquarters.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., also placed themselves in quarantine after coming in contact with the same person at the conservative conference.

As well, Rep. Julia Brownley, D-Calif., said she met last week with a person who has since been diagnosed with the virus. She closed her office and said she and her staff are "self-monitoring and maintaining social distancing practices."

Vast numbers of visitors come to the Hill, especially at this time of year when advocacy groups arrange "fly-in" trips to lobby and speak to lawmakers, and school groups descend for tours. In one manifestation of lawmaking in the age of the coronavirus, Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., approached a Republican colleague on the House floor Monday for a routine congratulatory handshake after the chamber approved a bill expanding a visa program. "Shake or bump?" Neal asked Rep. Kelly Armstrong, R-N.D. The two men bumped elbows.

Offices on Capitol Hill also advertised they were holding "no contact meetings" and asked guests to refrain from shaking hands.

The chairman of the Democratic caucus, Rep. Ha-keem Jeffries, said the House's chief administrative officer and the sergeant at arms are expected to brief Democrats at their regular caucus meeting Tuesday. The discussion was expected to address whether the Capitol will be restricted to visitors, he said.

It was not immediately clear how Trump was aiming to provide assistance to employees weighing whether to stay home because of illness — a crucial aim of public health officials seeking to curtail the spread of the virus. □

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U.S. Supreme Court rejects ex-cop's appeal of rape convictions

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear an appeal for a former Oklahoma City police officer convicted of sexually assaulting black women he encountered while patrolling the city's low-income neighborhoods. Attorney James L. Hankins asked the highest court in December 2019 to review a ruling against 33-year-old Daniel Holtzclaw issued months earlier by the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. The Supreme Court's denial of the written request means the lower court's decision stands. Holtzclaw's sister, Jenny

Holtzclaw, called the lower court's ruling "outrageous flawed and scientifically illiterate". "The average time it takes to exonerate an innocent person like Daniel is upwards of 14 years," she said. "This is devastating and Daniel lives through it every day, but he remains strong in his faith and spirit." Prosecutors alleged Holtzclaw targeted black women and girls while on duty in 2013 and 2014. Holtzclaw was found guilty in 2015 of 18 charges, including rape and sexual battery involving eight women. He was sentenced to 263 years in prison the

following year. Oklahoma's criminal appeals court rejected his appeals last August that argued a lack of evidence, misconduct by prosecutors and a failure by the defense attorney at trial to present an expert to offer an alternative explanation to how DNA of one victim wound up on Holtzclaw's pants. His case became a rallying cry of the Black Lives Matter movement. A 2015 Associated Press investigation highlighting it found about 1,000 officers in America lost their licenses for sexual misconduct over a six-year period



In this Jan. 21, 2016, file photo, former Oklahoma City police officer Daniel Holtzclaw, is seen at a sentencing hearing in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

— an undercount because some states don't have a method for banning problem officers. □

Utility pleads guilty to causing gas blasts that killed 1

BOSTON (AP) — A utility company pleaded guilty Monday to causing a series of natural gas explosions in Massachusetts that killed one person and damaged dozens of homes. The president of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, Mark Kempic, entered the plea in Boston's federal court on behalf of the company responsible for the blasts that tore through three communities in the Merrimack Valley, north of Boston, in September 2018. As part of the plea agreement, Columbia Gas of Massachusetts will pay a \$53 million fine for violating the Pipeline Safety Act. It's the largest criminal fine ever imposed under the pipeline safety law. The company said when the plea deal was announced last month that it takes full responsibility for the disaster. Eversource has agreed



In this Sept. 13, 2018 file image from video provided by WCVB in Boston, flames consume the roof of a home following an explosion in Lawrence, Mass.

Associated Press

to buy Columbia Gas of Massachusetts' natural gas assets for \$1.1 billion. Any profit from the sale of the company will be handed

over to the federal government along with the criminal fine. Federal investigators blamed the explosions on

overpressurized gas lines, saying the company failed to account for critical pressure sensors as workers replaced century-old, cast-

iron pipes in Lawrence. That omission caused high-pressure gas to flood the neighborhood's distribution system at excessive levels. Investigators found that Columbia Gas violated minimum safety standards for starting up and shutting down gas lines through a "pattern of flagrant indifference." The explosions and fires outraged the communities of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, where thousands of homes and businesses went without gas service for weeks, and months in some cases, during the winter. Leonel Rondon, 18, died when a chimney collapsed on his vehicle in the driveway of a friend's home — hours after he had gotten his driver's license. About two dozen others were injured, and dozens of buildings were damaged or destroyed. □

Prison riots hit Italy amid virus; 6 die in overdose

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Tensions in Italy's overcrowded prisons erupted Monday over new coronavirus containment measures, with riots in at least two dozen lock-ups and the deaths of six inmates who broke into an infirmary and overdosed on methadone.

Italy's national prisoner rights advocate urged wardens to take immediate measures to calm the situation and mitigate the new regulations, which include a suspension or limitation of family visits as a way to prevent transmission of the virus.

"The difficulty of accepting extreme measures is accentuated in places where people don't have any freedom," the advocate said in a statement, urging wardens to provide inmates with greater access to information and phone calls to family members.

The Italian government has issued sweeping measures to try to contain the virus, limiting travel into and out of northern regions, canceling school nationwide, barring gatherings of people and urging Italians to keep a meter (about three feet) apart. With more than 7,300 infected, Italy has more virus cases than any country outside Asia.

Human rights advocates had warned that fears of



A man stands on the roof of the San Vittore prison during a protest in Milan, Italy, Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press

the virus were hitting inmates particularly hard, given their awareness that their overcrowded conditions made them vulnerable, said Alessio Scandurra, coordinator of adult detention advocacy at the Antigone Association, which lobbies for prisoner rights.

"In prisons in general, there's a lot of anxiety," he said in a telephone interview. "You can't leave, and you're in a place where infectious diseases can spread critically. Obviously inmates know this very well."

When prison administrators limited or suspended family visits, the tensions exploded

probably as a panic reaction to limited accurate information about the measures and the virus' spread, he said.

In one of the biggest riots Sunday, prisoners in Modena set mattresses on fire. Six inmates died after they broke into the prison infirmary and overdosed on methadone, which is used to treat opioid dependence, said Donato Capece, secretary general of the penitentiary police union. On Monday, inmates climbed onto the roof of the San Vittore prison in Milan and held up a painted sheet reading "In-

dulto," Italian for pardon. Later, prosecutors also went up on the roof to listen to their grievances. Milan Prosecutor Alberto Nobili told Il Sole 24 Radio that the inmates "have taken advantage of this particular moment to demand better prison treatment, starting with lessening the numbers" of inmates. He noted San Vittore has 1,200 inmates when it should house only 700.

In Rome, relatives of inmates protested outside the Italian capital's two main prisons after they were told only one person would be allowed in to visit

each prisoner. Anna, who declined to give her name, had brought her nephew to visit her son at the Regina Coeli lock-up and was devastated that they both couldn't go in. In the end, she stayed outside and let her nephew go in "because it's also his birthday, so it is fair that he's the one to go inside."

At Rome's other prison, Rebibbia, relatives of inmates were joined by prisoner advocates who draped a banner across a police barricade reading "Free them all." Capece accused the government of abandoning the prison system, refusing to provide sufficient measures to prevent the spread of the virus and leaving guards on their own to deal with anxious, irate prisoners.

"The administration is completely absent," he told The Associated Press. "They have left the penitentiary police in jeopardy."

He confirmed that protests had taken place in more than two dozen prisons, including in Foggia where some prisoners had escaped. Video posted by Foggia Today online showed prisoners climbing the fence with riot police trying to keep them at bay. By Monday evening, 40 of at least 50 escaped inmates from the Foggia prison had been recaptured, Italian state TV said. □

Sex-crimes trial of ex-leader Salmond begins in Scotland



Former Scottish first minister Alex Salmond arrives at the High Court for the first day of his trial, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond, one of Scotland's

best-known politicians, went on trial Monday accused of sex crimes including attempting to rape a woman at the leader's official residence.

Salmond, 65, faces a total of 14 charges — one of attempted rape, 11 alleged sexual assaults and two alleged indecent assaults — against 10 women between 2008 and 2014.

He denies all the allegations. Salmond's lawyer, Gordon Jackson, said he would make a defense of consent to several of the charges, and for another he would say he had an alibi. Salmond stood between

security guards in the dock at the High Court in Edinburgh at the start of the first day of the trial, which is expected to last four weeks.

Judge Leona Dorrian told the jury of nine women and six men that they must decide the case on the evidence and not "allow yourselves to be swayed by sympathy or prejudice."

The woman said Salmond had groped her after a May 2014 dinner for supporters of Scottish independence at the first minister's Bute House residence in Edinburgh, leaving her "embarrassed and humiliated." "I didn't speak to anybody

because I felt that I had done something wrong almost and I didn't want people to know," she said.

Salmond led the pro-independence Scottish National Party for 20 years and headed Scotland's semi-autonomous government as its first minister from 2007 to 2014.

A major figure on the Scottish political stage for decades, he took Scotland to the verge of independence from the U.K. by holding a 2014 referendum on separation. He stepped down as leader after the "remain" side won the vote 55% to 45%. □

Turkey's leader presses EU for help amid migrant standoff

By LORNE COOK and
SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pressed the European Union on Monday for more help caring for Syrian refugees after EU officials accused him of "black-mail" for waving migrants through to Europe.

Thousands of migrants have massed at Turkey's land border with EU-member Greece since Erdogan's government made good on a longstanding threat and announced it would no longer prevent migrants from crossing.

EU countries have rallied behind Greece, which is also a member of NATO, and described it as a "shield" protecting Europe's borders with the outside world.

"It is beyond reason and understanding that a neighboring and ally country can point to us as the cause of the wave of irregular migration," Erdogan told reporters after talks with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Turkey hosts more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees, and Erdogan has demanded that Europe shoulder more of the burden of caring for them.

He has accused the EU of not meeting its obligations, including failing to pay money promised to Turkey under a 2016 deal to stem the flow of migrants to Europe.

The EU says it is disbursing



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, center, arrives for a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the Turkish Representation in Brussels, Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press

the funds.

The Turkish leader later met with top EU officials, European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, to discuss the 2016 deal.

The deal called for Turkey to halt the flow of Europe-bound migrants and refugees in exchange for up to 6 billion euros (\$6.7 billion) in aid for Syrian refugees on its territory, fast-track EU membership and visa-free travel to Europe for Turkish citizens.

Michel told reporters that Turkey and the EU "have different opinions on different things and that's why it's important to have a frank and open dialogue."

"For us, it's important to implement the deal," he said.

Beyond migration, the EU was keen to discuss developments in Syria with Erdogan and "how we can contribute to bringing more political support, more stability in the entire region," Michel said.

A high-level Turkish official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government rules, said the sides would discuss a possible revision of the agreement. It wasn't clear if a deal would emerge Monday.

Von der Leyen said the meeting would be the "re-start of a dialogue."

She repeated the EU has the obligation to protect its borders, but also to guarantee the fundamental individual right for asylum.

Erdogan was also expected to raise concerns over

alleged violence by Greek authorities as they push migrants back to Turkey.

Greece has deployed riot police and border guards to repel people and the border area has since seen violent confrontations. On Saturday, youths threw rocks at Greek police and tried to pull down a border fence.

Many migrants have alleged mistreatment at the hands of Greek police, and Turkey says two migrants were killed in violence along the border. Greece has denied the accusations.

EU foreign ministers have criticized Turkey, saying it is using migrants' desperation for political purposes. EU countries are still dealing with the political fallout

from a wave of mass migration five years ago. Tens of thousands of migrants were already in Greece before Turkey announced its borders open, many of them in massively overcrowded camps on Greek islands facing the Turkish coast. Part of the 2016 EU-Turkey deal stipulates new arrivals must remain on the islands pending deportation unless they successfully apply for asylum in Greece.

Germany's coalition government said early Monday the country was willing to "support Greece regarding the difficult humanitarian situation of about 1,000 to 1,500 children on the Greek islands."

The government said Germany could host children in dire need of medical treatment or those who are unattended minors younger than 14, especially girls. It didn't say exactly how many children Germany would take, but said an agreement would be negotiated by a European "coalition of the willing" in coming days.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, meanwhile, welcomed Erdogan's visit, saying he hoped it would mark "the start of the de-escalation of the crisis."

Speaking in Berlin, where he met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Mitsotakis said "there must be a concrete change in Ankara's policy" if Turkey is to become an ally of the EU in the migration issue once more. □

Madrid to close all schools for 2 weeks after virus spike

MADRID (AP) — Spain's health minister on Monday announced a sharp spike in coronavirus cases in and around the Spanish capital, Madrid, and said all schools in the region, including kindergartens and universities, will close for two weeks from Wednesday.

Giving the second update of the day, Salvador Illa announced 1,204 confirmed cases, with 28 deaths and 74 people in intensive care

— total cases up more than 200 since lunchtime. Those cases, he said, "imply a change for the worse of the disease in Spain".

National broadcaster TVE said the measure in Madrid would affect some 1.2 million students. In addition to closing schools, the minister announced a series of recommendations, including for companies to establish reduced working hours or considering asking their

employees to work from home, as well as asking citizens to reduce travel if possible. Illa also said that further measures would be announced on Tuesday.

Madrid has registered more than half of the cases of the new virus in the country, with much of the contagion linked to nursing homes and health workers. Earlier on Monday, authorities in northern Spain's Basque Country also an-



Young students play in a public school, in Vitoria, northern Spain, Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press

nounced the closure of educational centers around the regional capital, Vi-

toria, where the second-worst cluster has been identified. □

N. Korea fires weapons after threatening 'momentous' action

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korea fired three short-range projectiles off its east coast on Monday, South Korea's military said, two days after the North threatened to take "momentous" action to protest outside condemnation over its earlier live-fire exercises.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the multiple kinds of projectiles fired from the eastern coastal town of Sondok flew as far as 200 kilometers (125 miles) at a maximum altitude of 50 kilometers (30 miles) before landing in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

A JCS statement said South Korea expressed "strong regret" over the launches that it said violate a past inter-Korean agreement aimed at lowering military animosities. South Korea's national security director, defense minister and spy chief held an emergency video conference and agreed the North Korean action were not helpful to efforts to establish a peace on the Korean Peninsula, according to South Korea's presidential Blue House.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said North Korea fired suspected ballistic missiles. He said the multiple North Korean projectiles traveled 100 to



People watch a TV showing file images of North Korea's missile launch during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press

200 kilometers (62 to 125 miles) but none landed inside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

"North Korea's latest action, on top of its repeated firings of ballistic missiles, is a serious threat to the peace and safety of Japan and ... a grave problem for the entire international society," Suga said.

In the past 10 days, North Korea has said leader Kim Jong Un supervised two rounds of live-fire artillery exercises in its first weapons tests since late November. Kim had entered the new year with a vow to bolster his nuclear deterrent and

not to be bound by a major weapons test moratorium amid a deadlock in a U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at convincing Kim to abandon his nuclear program in return for economic and political benefits.

South Korea and some European countries protested against the second North Korea drills on March 2, which they believe involved ballistic missile launches in a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

North Korea insists it has the right to conduct military drills in the face of U.S. and South Korean forces on its doorstep.

The U.N. Security Council didn't issue any statement after discussing North Korea's March 2 drills, but five European members condemned what they called "provocative actions." Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany and the United Kingdom said afterward that the tests undermine regional and international peace, security and stability.

The North's Foreign Ministry on Saturday accused the five European countries of "repeating an absurd argument of condemnation and violation resolutions of the U.N. whenever we conducted military drills."

"The reckless behavior of these countries instigated by the U.S. will become a fuse that will trigger our yet another momentous reaction," a ministry statement said.

Last week, Kim Jong Un's younger sister leveled diatribes and crude insults against South Korea for criticizing its earlier live-fire exercises, but her statement was followed by Kim sending a letter to South Korean President Moon Jae-in expressing condolences over its coronavirus outbreak.

Some experts say North Korea may intend to catch South Korea off balance before seeking help in reviving its dilapidated economy, since the U.S. has said sanctions on North Korea will stay in place unless it takes significant steps toward denuclearization.

"The coronavirus is likely exceeding North Korea's public health capacity, so Kim Jong Un is playing a two-level game.

At the domestic level, his regime claims to protect the people with drastic quarantine measures and military exercises against external threats," said Leif-Eric Easley, associate professor at Seoul's Ewha Womans University. "Pyongyang may be seeking international assistance, but remains obsessed with not appearing in an inferior position to Seoul." □

New Malaysian leader unveils revamped Cabinet with no deputy



Malaysian new Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, thumbs up during a press conference at prime minister's office in Putrajaya, Malaysia, Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press

Associated Press

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia (AP)

— New Malaysian Prime

Minister Muhyiddin Yassin unveiled his Cabinet on Monday, saying he will

have no deputy prime minister and instead appointing four senior ministers to keep factions happy in his Malay-majority government.

Muhyiddin also named a banker as finance minister and a mufti as religious affairs minister in an unprecedented step, and appeared to deliver on promises of a graft-free Cabinet as he sought to shore up public support for his leadership.

Muhyiddin took office a week ago after his party's defection and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's resignation sparked the collapse of the former re-

formist ruling alliance. His rule has been questioned by Mahathir and his allies, who have called for a parliamentary vote to test Muhyiddin's claim of majority support.

Muhyiddin said Monday the appointment of four senior ministers will create a Cabinet that is more efficient and focused.

They will coordinate issues related to the economy, security, infrastructure development and education. "I want to form a Cabinet that can provide the best service to the people, a Cabinet that delivers.

The senior ministers will help me in my job as prime

minister including chairing Cabinet meetings in my absence," he said in a televised announcement. "With these senior ministers, there is no need for a deputy prime minister to be appointed for now."

Muhyiddin left out senior allies who have been charged with corruption. That includes key leaders of the United Malays National Organization, the party of disgraced ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak that was ousted by Mahathir's alliance in 2018 polls.

The conservative leader of a fundamentalist Islamic party was also not given a post. □

Sudan PM says he survived 'terror attack' in capital

By **SAMY MAGDY**

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's prime minister said Monday he survived a "terror attack" after an explosion and gunfire targeted his motorcade in the capital Khartoum.

Abdalla Hamdok, a long-time economist, tweeted he was "safe and in good shape" following the explosion. Sudanese state TV said Hamdok had been heading to his office when the attack took place.

Hamdok also tweeted a photo of himself smiling and seated at a large desk, while a TV behind him showed news coverage reporting he'd survived.

The attack highlighted the fragility of Sudan's transition to civilian rule, almost a year after pro-democracy protesters forced the military to remove autocratic President Omar al-Bashir from power and replace him with a joint military-civilian government, which has promised to hold elections in three years.

However, Sudan's generals remain the de facto rulers of the country and have shown little willingness to hand over power to civilians.

Hamdok, in his brief statement on Twitter, said, "Rest assured that what happened today will not stand in the way of our transition, instead it is an additional push to the wheel of change in Sudan."

No one immediately



Sudanese policemen stand around vehicles that were part of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok's motorcade in Khartoum, Sudan, Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press

claimed responsibility for the attack.

The country's top prosecutor, Taj al-Ser Ali al-Hebr, said in a statement that prosecutors have embarked on their investigation into the "professionally plotted" attack.

A statement from the prime minister's office said the attackers used explosives and firearms, and that a security officer was lightly wounded. The statement was read by Faisal Saleh, Sudan's information minister and interim government spokesman. He said the convoy was hit near the Kober Bridge.

Footage posted online showed two white, Japa-

nese-made SUVs typically used by Sudan's top officials parked on a street, damaged with its windows broken. Another vehicle was badly damaged in the blast. Several dozen people were seen at the site of the attack, chanting: "With our blood and soul, we redeem you, Hamdok."

The protest movement that led the uprising against al-Bashir called the blast a "terrorist attack." The statement by the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change called on people to take to the streets to "show our unity and cohesion ... and protect the transitional authority."

Youth activists face arrest and intimidation and are still reeling from a ferocious crackdown by security forces last summer that broke up their sit-in outside the military's headquarters and killed dozens.

After months of negotiations, the military and the pro-democracy movement reached a power-sharing deal in August, at which point Hamdok took office. The deal established a joint military-civilian, 11-member sovereign council to govern Sudan for the next three years.

Prominent activist Khalid Omar, secretary general of the Sudanese Congress Party, said the attempt on

Hamdok's life was a "new chapter in the conspiracy against the Sudanese revolution." U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said U.N. chief Antonio Guterres was "shocked and saddened" to learn of the attack and expressed "full solidarity" with the prime minister and people of Sudan.

The U.S. Embassy in Sudan tweeted: "We continue to support Sudan's civilian led transitional government and stand in solidarity with the Sudanese people."

Irfan Siddiq, the British ambassador in Khartoum, said the blast "is a deeply worrying event must be investigated fully." He tweeted that the Sudanese prime minister's office had confirmed Hamdok and his team "are all fine, with no injuries."

Monday's blast came less than two months after an armed revolt from within Sudan's security forces shut down the capital's airport and left at least two people dead. The tense stand-off between the armed forces and rogue intelligence officers paralyzed street life in several parts of Khartoum, along with another western city.

In 1989, al-Bashir came to power in an Islamist-backed military coup and imposed a strict interpretation of religion on its citizens, limiting personal freedoms. The country was an international pariah for its support of extreme Islamists. □

Egyptian engineer gets 15 years over deadly locomotive crash

By **SAMY MAGDY**

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian court Monday sentenced a train engineer to 15 years in prison for his conviction on charges of manslaughter and damaging public property stemming from a deadly locomotive crash last year at the Egyptian capital's main train station. An argument between engineers Emad Fathy and Ayman el-Shahat led to the unleashing of a speeding, unmanned locomotive that slammed into a barrier and exploded in Cairo's

busy Ramses station last February, killing 31 people and injuring 17.

Besides sentencing Fathy to 15 years, the Cairo criminal court fined him about \$570,000 for the damage caused by the crash. The court sentenced el-Shahat to 10 years. The sentences can be appealed.

The crash sparked public outrage at the time and prompted then-Transportation Minister Hisham Arafat to resign. President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi appointed a military officer to lead the ministry.

According to investigations, the locomotive was left unattended after Fathy got into an argument with el-Shahat and left the controls without applying the brakes. The engine began moving down the track, picking up a speed of 120 kph (75 mph) before slamming into a barrier and exploding.

Egypt's railway system has a history of badly maintained equipment and poor management.

The latest official figures show that over 2,000 train accidents took place

across the country in 2018. The country's deadliest train crash took place in 2002 when over 300 people were killed when fire erupted in speeding train traveling from Cairo to southern Egypt.

Also on Monday, a military court in Cairo sentenced 41 people to life in prison on terror-related charges, rights lawyer Khaled el-Masry said. The military sentenced 98 others to prison terms ranging from three to 15 years. It acquitted 50.

The court convicted the defendants of joining a

militant group known as Hasm, which has links to the Muslim Brotherhood, which is banned in Egypt, where it is considered a terrorist organization. Hasm has targeted mainly Egyptian security forces in bombings and drive-by shootings.

The 41 were also accused of carrying out several militant attacks, including one that killed a senior Egyptian army officer and the attempted assassination of the country's former mufti, Sheikh Ali Gomaa, and a deputy public prosecutor in 2016. □

Mexico: Thousands stay in to protest violence against women

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Untold thousands of women across Mexico stayed home from work and school Monday as part of a strike billed as "A Day Without Women," hours after an unprecedented number of them filled the streets to protest rampant and rising gender violence on International Women's Day.

Central streets in the capital were eerily empty of women and girls in the morning, as mostly men could be seen walking to offices, getting off buses or lining up to buy coffee. At least some metro ticket stations were closed, and President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's morning press conference was dotted with empty seats as female journalists joined the strike as well.

López Obrador said his government was functioning during the strike and that it wasn't yet clear how many federal employees were observing it. The president said it was up to each worker to decide what to do, in accordance with their personal beliefs and levels of responsibility.

The back-to-back protests mark an intensification of the struggle by Mexican women against violence and impunity in one of the most dangerous countries in the world for females. Women in Argentina and Chile have staged strikes in previous years and were also to do so again Monday. "What we want to provoke is that they see that if we're not there, the city won't circulate. That there



Demonstrators attack a vehicle belonging to the fire department during an International Women's Day march in Mexico City's main square, the Zocalo, Sunday, March 8, 2020.

Associated Press

are many of us. What are they going to do without us if they are killing us?" said Viviana Mendez, a lawyer and mother supporting the strike. The idea was to become invisible for a day so that coworkers, bosses, boyfriends, husbands and in some cases children reflect on the absence of each participating woman. Some also swore off social media until Tuesday. Some women could be seen Monday jogging or working at taco stands, coffee shops or other jobs. At a central intersection, a female transit officer waved cars through. But overall, the relative absence of women in public spaces was striking.

Government data say

3,825 women met violent deaths last year, 7% more than in 2018. That works out to about 10 women slain each day in Mexico. Thousands more have gone missing without a trace in recent years. Authorities seem incapable of preventing or properly investigating the crimes, very few of which result in convictions. "In Mexico it's like we're in a state of war; we're in a humanitarian crisis because of the quantity of women that have disappeared or been killed," said María de la Luz Estrada, coordinator of the National Citizen's Observatory of Femicide.

Asked about his government's strategy for combatting violence against

women and impunity for such crimes, López Obrador said Monday that his administration is working on the issue every day. Echoing his policy for addressing broader violence, the president stressed the importance of tackling social ills such as poverty and inequality.

"I maintain that the main thing is to guarantee the well-being of the people," López Obrador said.

Tougher criminal penalties and more aggressive prosecutions can help, he added, but "the main thing is that we live in a better society in all senses."

He also repeated previous assertions that some of the anger directed at his administration over the

violence against women "is conservatism disguised as feminism."

A Facebook group called "A Day Without Women" has more than 320,000 Mexican members who have been debating and informing each other about the possible consequences of not going to the office, hospital or school for one day.

Officials estimated that 80,000 women marched Sunday in Mexico City, many wearing lavender. Some remarked that it seemed symbolically meaningful that the color matched the jacarandas blooming overhead for springtime. Some protesters spray painted messages like "Mexico kills women" onto monuments, smashed windows and set fires. The great majority marched peacefully. There were smaller demonstrations elsewhere in the country.

Activists then stenciled the names of victims on Mexico City's central Zocalo square. The names came from public records of deaths that appear to fall into the category of femicide, meaning those women's killings showed marks of hatred for the female gender.

The call to protest grew in February after two murders rocked Mexico City: that of a young woman horribly disfigured, apparently by a boyfriend, and that of a 7-year-old girl abducted from her school. Murders of women in Mexico are often accompanied by sexual violence and stunning brutality. □



In this Jan. 7, 2020 file photo, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro speaks to journalists after meeting with military commanders at the Defense Ministry in Brasilia, Brazil.

Associated Press

Brazil's president says he will undergo fifth surgery

By DAVID BILLER

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro says that he will undergo yet another surgery as a result of his near-fatal stabbing on the campaign trail in 2018.

Bolsonaro, speaking in an interview broadcast Sunday on television network Record, said the surgery "should be the last one,"

without providing further details. It would be his fifth procedure since the assassination attempt. His spokesperson did not provide additional information. Bolsonaro was stabbed in the abdomen in September 2018 during a campaign rally while being carried on the shoulders of supporters.

The attempt on his life caused intestinal damage

and serious internal bleeding, and required emergency surgery.

He has since had a series of other operations, to unblock his intestine, remove a colostomy bag, and correct a hernia related to his recovery.

The interview was conducted by a comedian impersonating Bolsonaro, and who wore a mock presidential sash. □

LOCAL



'Aruba DOET' does it again!

ORANJESTAD — Receiving over 1,000,000 tourists annually, Aruba has long been the most popular holiday hub in the Caribbean. Famous for its long beaches, colonial-style villages and ever-shining sun, Aruba remains the preferred destination for people from around the world. Although serving the island well financially, the tourist flux has a great environmental impact on the island and often oversees the lesser conditions of people living away from the beach resorts. Thus, the volunteer initiative Aruba DOET was created to unite the people from around the island and all over the world with the community. In 2020, this wonderful event will once again put the ONE back in our HAPPY ISLAND on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th of March.

The 'Aruba DOET' family

Aruba DOET was initiated by the Netherlands Oranje Fonds in 2013, along with its sibling islands in the Caribbean. In the following eight years, in cooperation with CEDE Aruba, it quickly grew

to become the largest volunteer event on the island. At the mothering heart of the foundation, are numerous independent organizations and participating companies: We have seen banks paying their share by scheduling flexible hours for their employees, while hospitality venues service the community by providing meals and drinks. Large stock suppliers make sure no volunteer is left on the shelf by supplying free water and juice, while supermarkets offer their products at discount, keeping the cartwheels rolling. Waste containers are at our discounted disposal, garden companies have dug into our hearts by affordably renting out excavators, hardware stores give a huge amount of discount on their materials and thanks to transport services, Aruba DOET have enough busses available for their social projects.

What genuinely makes the event triumph are the thousands of volunteers that join the family each year. People from different



ages and cultural backgrounds clasp their hands together to make a difference, is the epitome of what our happy island stands for. This is reflected by the thankful Aruban community on the receiving end, but never as much as the joy that is shared by the generous participants.

Make a difference

As a volunteer, you will not only contribute to the community, but will also get the chance to participate in a project that brings people together. Holidaymakers and environmentalists, locals and entire families come together to make a difference. "This is my fifth year of participating in Aruba DOET, because it creates projects that puts a smile on the face of our children," says an Aruban contributor. A Dutch volunteer notes: "With Turtuguruba we cleaned up the beaches, in order for the sea turtles to safely enter land and lay their eggs. Thanks to the organization, sea turtles are now abundant on the beaches."

You also may join in on the fun! Visit www.arubadoet.com, choose from 194 projects, to find a job that best suits you and your schedule. The activities vary widely, from gardening for the hospital to brushing

up a local church or even building an all-new education centre. Help a paw at an animal shelter, flip the meat on a barbecue for the hearing-impaired or stimulate youngsters to express themselves through art. There is a job for everyone, but if you find it impossible to choose much help is needed as a life-lining all-rounder.

Working for the greater good

With the past years in mind, Aruba has proven to care about its community like no other island in the Caribbean Sea. Volunteers are the heart and soul of community organizations. Through CEDE Aruba and the Oranje Fonds, Aruba DOET emphasize how important actively engaged citizens are for the commu-

nity as a whole.

Thanks to the high-spirited volunteers and the generosity of all participating companies and organizations, every active year has painted the island with a fresh layer of triumph. In 2020, your help is needed to keep up the wonderful work and be part of an undertaking that will set an example for the Caribbean and the rest of the world. Being a part of Aruba DOET will give a positive impulse to the island and it gives a deeper insight into the island. On top of that, it will surely be an incredibly inspiring and fun day! Plus the participating organizations can reach their goals on that day, which they might not have been able to achieve without your help. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



The domestic native American mute dogs

ORANJESTAD — Their value in ancient native cultures is evidenced by their frequent appearance in art and artifacts. Archaeological evidence has been found in Mexico (Colima) dating similar dogs to over 3500 years ago. Long regarded as guardians and protectors of the upper world as well as in the underworld. Amerindians believed that the Xolo would safeguard the home from evil spirits as well as intruders. Ceramic representations of the Xolo, known as Colima Dogs, have been found in hundreds of burial sites. In ancient times the Xolos were often sacrificed and then buried with their owners to act as guide to the soul on its journey to the underworld. They have been found in burial sites of both the Maya and the Toltec.

These dogs were considered a great delicacy, and were consumed for sacrificial ceremonies—including marriages and funerals. Most likely, these pre-European dogs originated as spontaneous hairless mutations of indigenous American dogs. Hairlessness may have conferred a survival advantage in tropical regions. Indigenous peoples of Mexico had Xolo dogs as home and hunting companions. These dogs have survived and today they are still very popular companion dogs. They are also the national dog of Mexico.

This same mythical attributions are given to this canine the now officially recognized as a Peruvian Heritage, the Peruvian viringo, Peruvian hairless dog, Calato dog, chimú or viringo dog is a breed of hairless dog and usually used as a companion animal.

Continued on Page 15



Artistic representation of the Aruban ceramic dog figure

Episode LIX - (59)



Newly born Xoloitzcuintle , the Mexican hairless



The peruvian hair less



The local ceramic dog face

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The Lazy Lizard | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa

Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood and
Shalom Hair & Nail Bar

The domestic native American mute dogs

Continued from Page 14

The National Institute of Culture of Peru ordered the location of Peruvian hairless dogs in museums and sites that have the necessary conditions that allow the natural development and breeding of this species.

Representations of this specimen appear in ceramics of different pre-Inca cultures, such as Vicús, Mochica, Chancay, with Tiahuanaco influence, Sicán and Chimú.

The Incas way or in Quechua they called their dog

"kaclla". The name viringo seems to be the original name used by the Moches or Mochicas, whose descendants to this day name them so.

These dogs played an important role in the customs and myths of the Incas. The chronicles of the time of the Spanish conquest and the Viceroyalty testified to the presence of the Viringos. The country people kept the dog without hair, associated with their own culture and used it for medicinal purposes. Due to the lack of hair, this breed keeps your body warmer to protect you from the environment.

Pedro Weiss points out in his research that the hairless dog of Peru genetically has an ectodermal hypoplasia syndrome, which means that it has warm skin that when it comes into contact with human skin can heat it, which has been the basis for attributing medicinal

properties, for example to relieve rheumatism.

There are those who have attributed to the Peruvian dog the ability to avoid allergies, bronchial problems and asthma, since he has no hair that could cause respiratory problems, nor fleas or ticks, since they have nowhere to nest.

Evidence shows that these particular type of dogs were very popular, since it is believed that our natives also had their own hairless mute hunting dog, for hunting and for the protection against bad spirits and omens. I have seen local ceramic pieces that most probably are original Dabajuroide work that very much resemble a hairless mute hunting dog. I have managed to take a few pictures in the 1990's of some small pieces from a local private collector and that served as inspiration for a work. □

Episode LIX - (59)



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Aruba to Me

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Sue Tedesco Saratoga Springs.

She wrote:
Aruba to me 20 years of Friendship!



Jayne Sullivan from Troy, Maine.

She wrote:
Aruba to me A reminder of God's grace and the magnificent beauty of His creation!



Eileen McDonald from Readville, Massachusetts

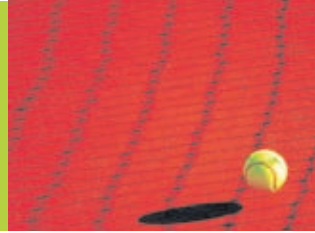
Aruba to me Heaven in the palm of your hands!!



Dr Vincent and Angela Castellano from New Jersey USA

They wrote:
Aruba to me Sometimes getting up early for you Palapa has a wonderful reward!!

SPORTS



Indian Wells tennis postponed after coronavirus confirmed

By BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

The BNP Paribas Open, the near-major tennis tournament set to begin this week in the California desert, won't be played as scheduled after a case of coronavirus was confirmed in the Coachella Valley.

It's the largest U.S. sporting event to be called off over concerns about the spread of the disease. The South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas, was canceled Friday.

The announcement came Sunday night after many players were already in the desert practicing. Qualifying matches were to begin Monday with women's main draw matches starting Wednesday and the men's draw beginning Thursday.

"We're here and still deciding what's next," tweeted Rafael Nadal, the world's second-ranked player. "So sad for all that is happening around the world with this situation. Hopefully soon solutions from the authorities. Stay all well and safe."

The Riverside County Public Health Department declared a public health emergency for the desert cities 110 miles east of Los Angeles, including Indian Wells where the ATP and WTA tours were to play the two-week tournament.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency. California has reported 114 cases of the virus.

Continued on Page 18

BATTLE OF L.A.



LeBron & Co. snap Clippers' streak at 6 with 112-103 victory

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, left, shoots as Los Angeles forward Kawhi Leonard defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press
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Indian Wells

Continued from Page 17

"There is too great a risk, at this time, to the public health of the Riverside County area in holding a large gathering of this size," Dr. David Agus, professor of medicine and biomedical engineering at the University of Southern California, said Sunday. "It is not in the public interest of fans, players and neighboring areas for this tournament to proceed. We all have to join together to protect the community from the coronavirus outbreak."

The event typically draws upwards of 450,000 fans. It is commonly referred to as the "fifth slam" because of its popularity among the players and its stature, ranking points and over \$17 million in prize money that place it one rung below tennis' four Grand Slam tournaments. This year's field included Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Serena Williams, Naomi Osaka and Coco Gauff. Kim Clijsters was set to continue her comeback at the event.

"So sad to hear the news about the postponing of @BNPPARIASOPEN," Gauff tweeted. "I was so excited to make my debut in IW, but safety is always the no. 1 priority. Stay safe."

Tournament director Tommy Haas said organizers are prepared to play the event on different dates and will explore options. However, the pro tennis calendar is

tightly scheduled and the summer months in the desert are notoriously hot.

"We are very disappointed that the tournament will not take place, but the health and safety of the local community, fans, players, volunteers, sponsors, employees, vendors, and everyone involved with the event is of paramount importance," Haas said in a statement.

Already some smaller tennis events in China and Italy — the two countries hardest hit by the virus — had been affected. The Miami Open, which follows Indian Wells later this month, could be jeopardy. The Ultra music festival in that city has already been canceled. The year's second Grand Slam tournament, the French Open, is set to be played in Paris in May.

The decision to postpone Indian Wells was based on the guidance of medical professionals, the Centers for Disease Control and state of California officials, tournament officials said.

"We understand the decision which has been made in the interest of public health and safety which is the top priority at this time," WTA chairman and CEO Steve Simon said in a statement. "It is too soon to speculate about what will happen to other tournaments that follow. We will continue to closely monitor the situation. Health and safety will always come



In this Monday, March 11, 2019, file photo, Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, walks off the court during a rain break in his match against Philipp Kohlschreiber, of Germany, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

first." Refunds for this year's event or a credit toward next year's tournament are being offered.

Riverside County health officials said the individual with the first case of locally acquired coronavirus is being treated at Eisenhower Health in nearby Rancho Mirage after testing positive. The person is not being identified because of confidentiality rules.

Health officials are following up on people who may have been exposed and an investigation is underway to find out how the person contracted the disease.

It's the second case recorded in Riverside County. A cruise ship passenger from Riverside County was diagnosed with COVID-19 recently and is recovering

at a Northern California medical facility. That person hasn't returned home since leaving the Diamond Princess ship.

"We have always known this was a possibility," Dr. Cameron Kaiser, Riverside County public health officer, said of the first case. "We have been planning for weeks and are prepared to take the necessary steps to protect the health of our local community." A charity event featuring Nadal set for Tuesday night at Indian Wells Tennis Garden has been canceled, tournament spokesman Matt Van Tuinen said.

Nadal was set to be joined by defending BNP Paribas Open champion Dominic Thiem, Daniil Medvedev, Matteo Berrettini, Stan Wawrinka, Milos Raonic

and American Taylor Fritz for the Eisenhower Cup, a \$150,000 winner-take-all event. Earlier in the week, officials had announced several measures to protect players, fans and staff at the tennis tournament. Ball kids were going to have to wear gloves and not touch the towels of players on the court. Organized player and fan interaction was also going to be limited at the tournament. Besides ball kids, restaurant and food supply workers were going to wear gloves as well as volunteers taking tickets at entrances. Over 250 hand sanitizing stations were set up throughout the venue.

Other major sports and entertainment events in the desert are scheduled for next month. □



In this March 23, 2019, file photo, then-Memphis Grizzlies center Joakim Noah, center, looks to shoot between Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) and guard Josh Okogie, right, in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

Clippers sign free-agent center Joakim Noah

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Clippers have signed free-agent center Joakim Noah, giving them an aggressive, physical presence with playoff experience.

The 35-year-old two-time All-Star played 42 games with Memphis last season after agreeing to a buyout with the New York Knicks. He averaged 7.1 points, 2.1 assists and 5.7 rebounds for the Grizzlies. Noah attended the Clippers' loss to the Lakers on Sunday at Staples Center, where he was warmly received as he made his way through the crowd and sat

in the stands. "Joakim is a relentless competitor and a proven winner," Lawrence Frank, director of basketball operations, said Monday. "His experience, acumen and toughness fit well in our locker room."

Noah has been limited to 124 games since the end of the 2014-15 season in Chicago, which selected him with the ninth overall pick in the 2007 NBA draft. He was the NBA defensive player of the year in 2014. Noah led Florida to NCAA championships in 2006 and '07. □

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Pelican Adventures

Davis, James help Lakers end Clippers' 6-game winning streak

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anthony Davis scored 30 points, LeBron James added 28 and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Clippers 112-103 on Sunday, snapping their Staples Center co-tenant's six-game winning streak.

Avery Bradley added 24 points to help the Lakers won their fourth in a row and 11th in 12 games. They pulled away in the second half after the Clippers' smothering defense helped them lead most of the first two quarters.

The Lakers recently clinched a playoff berth for the first time since 2013, and it's possible they could meet the Clippers in the postseason. The crowd made it feel like a playoff atmosphere, with a strong contingent of raucous Lakers fans on hand for what was a Clippers' home game. They chanted "MVP! MVP!" when James completed a 3-point play that tied the Lakers' largest lead of 12 points with 40 seconds to play.

Paul George scored 31 points, Kawhi Leonard added 27 and Montrezl Harrell had 20 for the Clippers. They lost to the Lakers for the first time in three games this season.

SUNS 140, BUCKS 131

PHOENIX (AP) — Devin Booker scored 20 of his 36 points in Phoenix's 47-point first quarter and the Suns beat NBA-leading Milwaukee.

The Bucks played without MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo because of a minor knee sprain. Injured Friday night in a loss at the Los Angeles Lakers, he'll also sit out Monday night at Denver.

Booker was 7 of 8 from the field in the first quarter, going 4-for-4 on 3-pointers. He finished 13 of 17 from the

field, 4 of 6 on 3s, made 6 of 7 free throws and had eight assists. Ricky Rubio had a triple-double for the Suns with 25 points, 13 assists and 13 rebounds. Aron Baynes added 24 points, and Mikal Bridges had 21. Khris Middleton scored 39 points for Milwaukee.

THUNDER 105, CELTICS 104

BOSTON (AP) — Dennis Schröder stripped the ball from Kemba Walker and scored on a layup with 8.5 seconds to help Oklahoma City rally past Boston.

Chris Paul led the Thunder with 28 points and seven assists, and Schröder added 27 points and six assists. Oklahoma City overcame an 18-point first-half deficit to win its third straight.

Gordon Hayward led the Celtics with 24 points.

MAGIC 126, ROCKETS 106

HOUSTON (AP) — D.J. Augustin scored 24 points, Aaron Gordon added 19 and Orlando handed slumping Houston its fourth straight loss. Russell Westbrook led Houston with 24 points to give him at least 20 in a career-long 33 straight games, but he also topped the Rockets with eight turnovers. James Harden scored 23 points, but made just 6 of 19 shots.

RAPTORS 118, KINGS 113

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Pascal Siakam scored 11 of his 23 points in the final 2½ minutes, Toronto got a big fourth quarter from Kyle Lowry and the Raptors held on to beat Sacramento. Lowry scored 13 of his 30 points in the final quarter after picking up his fifth foul early in the period. Siakam took over the scoring load late and helped the Raptors to their third straight win since a three-game skid.

Norman Powell had 31 points, and Serge Ibaka added 15 points and 10 rebounds.



Los Angeles Clippers guard Reggie Jackson, second from left, tries to pass while under pressure from Los Angeles Lakers guard Danny Green, left, and forward Anthony Davis during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 112-103.

Associated Press

De'Aaron Fox scored 28 points for the Kings.

PELICANS 120, TIMBERWOLVES 107

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jrue Holiday just missed his second triple-double against Minnesota in less than a week, putting up a season-high 37 points and adding nine rebounds and eight assists for New Orleans.

Zion Williamson scored 23 points on 9-for-15 shooting, Lonzo Ball had 18 points and eight assists, and Brandon Ingram pitched in 15 points and 12 rebounds to help the Pelicans start a four-game trip with the victory. Malik Beasley had 21 points and nine rebounds for Minnesota.

PACERS 112, MAVERICKS 109

DALLAS (AP) — Domantas Sabonis had 20 points and 17 rebounds, and Victor Oladipo scored the final six points to help Indiana beat Dallas. Luka Dončić scored 36 points for Dallas. Tim Hardaway Jr. had 20 of his 30 points in the second

half.

NETS 110, BULLS 107

NEW YORK (AP) — Spencer Dinwiddie scored 24 points, Caris LeVert and Joe Harris each added 23 and Brooklyn beat Chicago, a day after the Nets parted ways with coach Kenny Atkinson. Interim head coach Jacque Vaughn directed the Nets to their second straight victory. The team said Saturday morning that the team and Atkinson "mutually agreed to part ways."

Otto Porter Jr. led the Bulls with 23 points.

HEAT 100, WIZARDS 89

WASHINGTON (AP) — Playing most of the second half without Jimmy Butler after he headed to the locker room, Miami beat Washington to snap a four-game road losing streak.

Bam Adebayo had 27 points and 14 rebounds for Miami. Butler left the game with 4½ minutes remaining in the third quarter and did not return.

Bradley Beal scored 23

points for the Wizards, ending his streak of 21 games in a row with at least 25. He shot 0 or 9 in the fourth quarter. Shabazz Napier topped Washington with 27.

CAVALIERS 132, SPURS 129, OT

CLEVELAND (AP) — Andre Drummond returned from a leg injury to score 28 points and add 17 rebounds, and Kevin Love made a big 3-pointer in overtime to lift Cleveland past San Antonio.

Cleveland improved to 5-5 under coach J.B. Bickerstaff.

DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points for the Spurs.

KNICKS 96, PISTONS 84

NEW YORK (AP) — Julius Randle had 22 points and 12 rebounds and New York pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Detroit. Elfrid Payton added 16 points, six assists and five rebounds for the Knicks. Christian Wood had 22 points and eight rebounds for the Pistons. □

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Hall of Fame endorses labor agreement for inductee benefits

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

The Pro Football Hall of Fame in an unusual move is endorsing the labor agreement the players' union currently is voting on, citing pension benefits for its inductees and other former players.

Hall of Fame President David Baker sent a letter to all inductees and their families on Monday. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter in which Baker refers to conversations with various league and union officials. Team owners approved the deal last month, and the player vote will conclude late Saturday night.

Previously, the union's executive board voted 6-5 against the deal; the player representatives were 17-14 in favor, with one abstention. Some 2,500 union members can vote, with a simple majority approving or rejecting the agreement that would run through the



In this Nov. 1, 2018, file photo, Pro Football Hall of Fame president David Baker speaks during halftime of an NFL football game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Oakland Raiders in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press

2030 season.

Baker addressed key elements of the CBA that is being voted on:

—Retirement security. The monthly benefit credit for all retirees will be increased to \$550 per month for every year of credited service. Increases may vary if players have already taken a portion of their pensions early, but the average increase

could be 50%. With a modest increase in league revenue that is tied to the increase of the salary cap, the pension could move to \$600 per month for every year of credited service. He added that these increases would be realized annually for life and approximately 11,500 former players will benefit from this change.

—Vesting. About 700 former players who were credited only with three years of service when four were required will now be eligible to participate in the pension and health reimbursement benefit programs. Those players, who are currently receiving no pension benefits, would begin receiving an annual pension of \$19,800 for life.

—Family benefits. Death benefits for widows and survivors would also increase from \$6,000 per month for 48 months to \$13,000 per month for 60 months. That would increase to \$15,000 per month by 2025. After the 60 months, the benefit would decrease to \$6,000 per month instead of \$4,400 as in the current CBA.

—Health coverage. The Health Reimbursement Account would be applied for approximately 4,400 pre-2007 players under the age of 65 with at least three years of credited service. That would provide an im-

mediate \$50,000 contribution to cover medical expenses for them and their dependents.

—Health care: A nationwide hospital network would be formed that will offer primary care and other free services, including wellness and preventative screenings, mental health care and certain orthopedic treatment to former players. The program eventually would be expanded to include additional services and become available for wives and widows. More than 2,400 vested former players who are at least 50 years old would receive free long-term care insurance to help cover the costs of nursing and facility care, medical management and meal preparation. Vested retirees age 65 or older would have additional options for their Medicare supplement benefit, which would increase by 25% midway through the labor agreement. □

Geekie, Williams lead Hurricanes beat Penguins 6-2

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Morgan Geekie scored twice and added an assist in his NHL debut, Justin Williams added two third-period goals and the Carolina Hurricanes surged past the Pittsburgh Penguins 6-2 on Sunday.

Jake Gardiner added a goal and an assist and Jacob Slavin also scored for the Hurricanes, who pulled into a tie with the New York Islanders for the second wild card in the Eastern Conference.

Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 28 shots to earn the second win of his career for Carolina.

Patrick Marleau and Evgeni Malkin scored for Pittsburgh and Tristan Jarry finished with 30 saves but the listless Penguins capped a miserable weekend at home by losing for the second time in 24 hours to teams they're scrapping with for positioning in the crowded Metropolitan Division.

BLUE JACKETS 2, CANUCKS 1

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Elvis Merzlikins made 26 saves in his return after missing four games with a concussion, and Columbus held off Vancouver. Emil Bemstrom and Eric Robinson scored to help the Blue Jackets move two points ahead of Carolina and New York Islanders for the top Eastern Conference wild card.

Elias Pettersson got the goal for the Canucks, who are tied with the Predators and Jets for the second wild card in the West. Vancouver currently holds the spot with one more win than Nashville and a game in hand on Winnipeg.

RED WINGS 5, LIGHTNING 4

DETROIT (AP) — Robby Fabbri scored the winning goal in a shootout as Detroit snapped a 16-game losing streak against Tampa Bay in the regular season.

Fabbri opened the scoring in similar fashion, beating goalie Curtis McElhinney on a breakaway in the first period as well. Anthony Mantha had a goal and three assists for the Red Wings, who won despite blowing a



Carolina Hurricanes goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic (39) makes a save against the Pittsburgh Penguins during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

4-2 lead in the third period. Dylan Larkin and Tyler Bertuzzi also scored for Detroit. Brayden Point scored two goals, and Carter Verhaeghe and Pat Maroon had one apiece for the Lightning, who completed an unusual weekend in which they beat the team with the NHL's best record (Boston) on Saturday night and then lost a day later to a Detroit team with by far the league's worst mark.

Mikhail Sergachev scored for the Lightning in the shootout, but Larkin tied it. In the third round, Detroit goalie Jonathan Bernier denied Nikita Kucherov. Then Fabbri tucked the puck past McElhinney with a backhand.

BLUES 2, BLACKHAWKS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Jake Allen stopped 29 shots for his second shutout and St. Louis won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Robert Bortuzzo and Alex Pietrangelo scored for the Central Division-leading Blues, who killed four Chicago power plays as they rebounded from a 4-2 home loss to lowly New Jersey on Friday. Jaden Schwartz

had two assists.

Allen was tested only in spurts in his 21st career shutout. The Blues swept their season series from the Blackhawks, winning all four game and outscoring Chicago 16-8.

Corey Crawford had 24 saves in his ninth straight start as Chicago lost its second straight following a four-game winning streak.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 5, FLAMES 3

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Shea Theodore scored the tiebreaking goal with 1:10 remaining and Vegas recovered after giving up a three-goal lead.

Nick Holden had a goal and an assist for the Golden Knights, who regained top spot in the Pacific Division over idle Edmonton. Tomas Nosek, Max Pacioretty and Jonathan Marchessault also scored for Vegas.

Making his third start for Vegas since being acquired from Chicago at the trade deadline, Robin Lehner made 19 saves to improve to 3-0-0 with his new team. Milan Lucic had a goal and an assist for the Flames, who had won three straight. Dil-

lon Dube and Matthew Tkachuk also scored for Calgary. David Rittich had 27 saves to fall to 0-6-1 in his last seven home starts.

WILD 5, DUCKS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Kevin Fiala scored his second goal of the game with 59 seconds remaining on the clock in overtime and Minnesota beat Anaheim. Alex Galchenyuk, Victor Rask, and Mats Zuccarello also scored, and the Wild reclaimed the first wild card in the Western Conference. Minnesota has won eight of its past 11 games and seven of eight on the road.

Devan Dubnyk made 22 saves in his first start Feb. 23 after Alex Stalock started the previous seven games. Jakob Silfverberg had two goals and an assist, Christian Djoos and Danton Heinen also scored, but the Ducks fell short of matching a season-high three-game win streak. Ryan Miller made 25 saves.

AVALANCHE 4, SHARKS 2

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Nathan MacKinnon and Gabriel Landeskog each had a goal and two assists and Colorado's top line over-

whelmed San Jose.

MacKinnon and Landeskog scored the first two goals for the Avalanche and then set up Vladislav Namestnikov for the go-ahead score midway through the second period to give Colorado its 10th win in its past 11 road games.

Former Sharks forward Joonas Donskoi added a goal in the third and Pavel Francouz made 22 saves to keep the Avalanche two points behind St. Louis in the race for first place in the Central Division with a game in hand.

Joe Thornton, Melker Karlsson and Noah Gregor scored for the Sharks, who lost their third straight game to end a six-game homestand. Martin Jones made 20 saves. □

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IN THE PITS: NASCAR off to fast start through first month

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

A busy first month for NASCAR came to a close with a three-race West Coast swing marked by both a surprise appearance from injured driver Ryan Newman and a successful preview of the rules package that will decide this year's Cup Series champion.

Attention has been fixed on the sport since Newman's terrifying accident on the final lap of the Daytona 500 last month raised questions about the safety of the sport and the sanity of its competitors.

What initially appeared to be NASCAR's first fatality in a Cup race since Dale Earnhardt was killed in the 2001 Daytona 500 instead was what Newman called "a miracle." He walked out of a Florida hospital less than 48 hours later and made the trek to Phoenix last weekend to support his Roush Fenway Racing team. Newman's crash brought new eyes to the series and presented an opportunity to kick-start the story lines that will follow NASCAR into November. Most important was the action Sunday at Phoenix Raceway, which will host the championship finale for the first time. A new rules package introduced last season ruined the racing at short tracks and the snoozefest at Phoenix last year forced the issue for NASCAR. With a new ven-



Joey Logano (22) races Tyler Reddick (8) out of Turn 4 during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Phoenix Raceway, Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press

ue set to host the championship race, NASCAR could not afford a lackluster affair. The series reduced the size of the rear spoiler, Goodyear worked on an improved tire and the traction compound typically applied to racing surfaces was altered. It made for a far more entertaining race won by Joey Logano, who rallied after falling to 18th on a botched pit stop.

"I think everyone in this whole facility took a sigh of relief," said Logano. "Even if we didn't win I would have said that was a pretty cool race."

Logano won for the second time in four races as he benefits from a major off-

season shuffle at Team Penske. All three Penske drivers swapped crew chiefs and Logano got Paul Wolfe, who won a championship with Brad Keselowski. The pairing already has two Cup wins, a guaranteed spot in the playoffs and a victory in a Daytona qualifying race.

Ryan Blaney also seemed to do quite well in the swap. He had the opportunity to win the first three races of the season, including finishing second to Denny Hamlin in the second-closest finish in Daytona 500 history.

It was contact from Blaney that triggered Newman's crash but both have bounced back, and Blaney

went to Phoenix as the Cup Series points leader. He became the first driver on a long list of free agents to take his name off the market, signing an extension to remain with Penske another three years. Keselowski has not seen the same benefits from the Penske shakeup. His best chance at a victory came Sunday at Phoenix when he didn't pit to take a late lead, but his worn tires didn't hold up and he had to give up track position for a stop before overtime. He wound up 11th after leading 82 laps. NASCAR's 2012 champion is a free agent who has not started serious contract talks with Penske; a changing market rate

and his own performance will dictate what kind of deal he ends up with.

Hendrick Motorsports will have at least one opening at the end of the year when Jimmie Johnson calls it quits on full-time NASCAR racing and Keselowski may test the market for a shot at the No. 48 Chevrolet with his former team. But Hendrick got some breathing room two races ago when Alex Bowman, another free agent, won at California to prove he wants to keep his seat. If Rick Hendrick can get a deal done with Bowman and limit his job openings to the No. 48, he may not need to spend the money on a veteran such as Keselowski. Hendrick is also aided by an apparent improvement in the Camaro the Chevrolet teams are driving this season. Rolled out in 2018, the car simply wasn't competitive and Chevy has failed to put a driver in the final four championship round the last two years.

Bowman got Chevrolet a victory in just the third race of the season (it took 10 races last season) and showed the Camaro modifications have given the Chevy teams a chance to compete. It's most evident for Johnson, the seven-time champion who had back-to-back top-seven finishes out West. His fifth-place finish at Las Vegas was his first top-five since Daytona last July. □



The Los Angeles Angels and the Seattle Mariners play during the fourth inning of a spring training baseball game Wednesday, March 4, 2020, in Tempe, Ariz.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball says it doesn't plan to alter its

schedule because of the coronavirus outbreak.

"While MLB recognizes the

MLB: No plans to alter schedule because of virus outbreak

fluidity of this rapidly evolving situation, our current intention is to play spring training and regular season games as scheduled," the league said in a statement. Commissioner Rob Manfred held a conference call with the 30 teams Monday to discuss the health crisis.

All clubs are set to open the season March 26. Among the games are Texas at Seattle, the World Series champion Washington Nationals at the New York Mets and San Francisco vis-

iting Dodger Stadium.

The Seattle area has been hit hard by the virus outbreak. Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said there hasn't been any discussion with MLB or the Mariners about swapping home dates for that opening series, but said Texas' new ballpark would be ready if it came to that.

Spring training games are continuing in Florida and Arizona. There are exhibitions set for later this month in Montreal, the U.S. Naval

Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and Sacramento, California, among other sites.

"The health and safety of everyone in our communities is of the utmost importance to us. We have been engaging on an ongoing basis with a wide range of public health experts, infectious disease specialists, and governmental agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to obtain the latest information," MLB said. □

Trainers, vets, others charged in racehorse-drugging scheme

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Sports Writer

More than two dozen people, including the trainer of champion Maximum Security, were charged in what authorities described Monday as a widespread international scheme to drug horses to make them race faster.

Trainer Jason Servis, whose stable includes the 3-year-old champion, was charged with administering performance-enhancing drugs to that horse and others. Maximum Security crossed the finish line first at the 2019 Kentucky Derby before being disqualified for interference and has since won four of his five high-profile races.

The charges against trainers, veterinarians and others were detailed in four indictments unveiled Monday in Manhattan federal court. Charges brought against the 27 people include drug adulteration and misbranding conspiracy.

Performance-enhancing drugs "were given to racehorses in an effort to increase their performance beyond their natural abilities," William F. Sweeney Jr., assistant director in charge of the FBI New York Office, said at a news conference. "What actually happened to the horses amounted to nothing less than abuse. They experienced cardiac issues, overexertion leading to leg fractures, increased risk of injury, and, in some cases, death. Conversely, the human being involved



In this May 3, 2019, file photo, trainer Jason Servis is seen at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. Associated Press

in the scheme continued to line their purses as they manipulated this multibillion-dollar horse racing industry across the globe."

Authorities say the drugs can cause horses to overexert themselves, leading to heart issues or death. According to the indictments, other drugs used to deaden a horse's sensitivity to pain to improve the horse's performance could also lead to leg fractures.

Authorities said participants in the fraud — affecting races in New York, New Jersey, Florida, Ohio, Kentucky and the United Arab Emirates — misled federal and state regulators, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, various state horse racing regulators and the betting public.

Federal authorities searched barns in Florida and a manufacturing facility in Kentucky. The Stronach Group, which operates Gulfstream Park West and Palm Meadows Training Center in Florida, said it complied with the search warrants specific only to the barns and stalls of those charged.

"The Stronach Group is committed to achieving the highest level of horse care and safety standards in thoroughbred racing," the company said in a statement. "There is no room in our sport for anyone who does not prioritize the health and well-being of horses and riders."

The group, which also operates Santa Anita Park in California and Pimlico

Racecourse and Laurel Park in Maryland, was not charged. There is no evidence these charges have any connection to racehorse deaths at Santa Anita in 2019.

In the indictment, Servis is charged with giving Maximum Security a performance-enhancing drug called SGF-1000, recommending it to another trainer, and conspiring with a veterinarian to make it look like a false positive for another substance. The other trainer, Jorge Navarro, is also among those charged.

Maximum Security on Feb. 29 won the world's richest race, the \$10 million Saudi Cup.

Servis is alleged to have given performance-enhanc-

ing drugs to "virtually all the racehorses under his control." He entered horses in races approximately 1,082 times from 2018 through February 2020, according to authorities.

"The charges in this indictment result from a widespread, corrupt scheme by racehorse trainers, veterinarians, PED (performance-enhancing drug) distributors and others to manufacture, distribute and receive adulterated and misbranded PEDs and to secretly administer those PEDs to racehorses under scheme participants' control," an indictment reads.

Prosecutors noted in indictments that professional horse racing is a \$100 billion industry followed by millions of fans worldwide, leading racehorses to sell at auction for well over \$1 million.

"A sad day for racing but a long time coming," trainer Graham Motion tweeted. "A good day for those who try to play by the rules, we will all be better for it."

According to the indictments, marketers and distributors of drugs known as "blood builders" to stimulate a horse's endurance have infiltrated the horse racing industry for at least the last decade.

One of Navarro's horses, X Y Jet, who is named in one of the indictments as a recipient of performance-enhancing drugs, was responsible for over \$3 million in winnings and died of an apparent heart attack in January. □

AP Sources: Bills agree to sign cornerback Josh Norman

By **JOHN WAWROW**
AP Sports Writer

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Two people with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press that veteran cornerback Josh Norman has agreed to sign a one-year contract with the Buffalo Bills.

The people spoke to The AP on Monday on the condition of anonymity because the signing has not been announced. NFL Network first reported the

deal. Norman is an eighth-year player who spent the past four seasons in Washington before being released last month.

He struggled to play to high expectations and was cut with one season left on a five-year \$75 million contract he signed in free agency in 2016.

In Buffalo, the 32-year-old Norman gets an opportunity for a fresh start among familiar faces.

Bills coach Sean McDermott

was the Panthers defensive coordinator during Norman's first four NFL seasons in Carolina. Norman is also a known commodity to Bills general manager Brandon Beane, who worked in the Panthers' front office at the same time.

Norman will be given an opportunity to compete with Levi Wallace for the starting job opposite Tre'Davious White. He also fills a potential need with

cornerback Kevin Johnson eligible to become an unrestricted free agent next week.

Norman enjoyed his best season under McDermott in 2015 on a Panthers defense that led the league with 24 interceptions. He had a career-best four interceptions and returned two for touchdowns to earn his first and only All-Pro honor.

Last season, Norman had only eight starts in 12

games and understood his time with Washington was coming to an end after sitting out the team's final four games.

"You've got to put it on yourself as a person to be better within what is happening, and I wasn't," Norman said on locker clean-out day. "I can accept that."

Upon being released, he posted a note on his Twitter account saying he was "grateful for everything." □

Amid virus crisis, officials announce health care tech rules

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**

WASHINGTON (AP) — With coronavirus topping Americans' concerns, senior Trump administration officials tried to switch subjects Monday by announcing final rules aimed at delivering on the unfulfilled promise of electronic health records.

It did not go smoothly as reporters veered back to the global outbreak increasingly affecting U.S. communities.

"The notion that we can't do our day jobs and work on this very serious issue (coronavirus) is absurd," said a frustrated Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar after one reporter noted that financial markets had opened sharply lower over fears of global economic damage from the outbreak.

Azar recapped administration actions to try to contain the spread of the virus in the U.S., develop tests, treatments and vaccines, work with local officials in areas that are seeing outbreaks, and care for the sick. Announcement of the technology rules was originally planned at a health care conference in Florida, but that event was canceled over coronavirus concerns.

The long-awaited rules could take several years for consumers and patients to start seeing the practical effects.

They are intended to get at one of the major problems with electronic health records: the systems of hospitals and doctors often don't 'talk' to each other, and patients struggle to get their medical information digitally transmitted, defaulting to CDs and faxed paper records.

The federal government invested more than \$30 billion a decade ago to help hospitals and doctors convert to computerized records. But it never solved the problems of getting the different medical systems to seamlessly interact, and of providing a pathway for patients to easily access their records. Two rules fi-



Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar speaks during a television interview outside the White House in Washington, Monday, March, 9, 2020.

nalized by the Trump administration aim to finally fix that.

The regulations are highly complex. Hospitals and a consumer group objected, saying that patient privacy would be undermined.

One rule from the HHS agency that oversees health care technology would implement congressional requirements that hospitals and other health care entities put a stop to practices that can block the digital transfer of information. Some systems don't allow screen shots or video to be shared, for example.

The health care technology office rule also tries to address access problems at the patient's level. It requires hospitals and other health care service providers to allow access to records via software used by smartphone apps, such as the ones that already handle banking and credit card transactions. Patients could literally access their records via the smartphone in their back pocket.

CMS will also require hospitals to electronically notify a patient's outside doctors when that patient is admitted, discharged or transferred.

The hope is that easier access and authorized sharing of individuals' health care information will help prevent medical errors,

cut down on duplicative tests, and help patients become smarter consumers of health care services.

But Rick Pollack, president of the American Hospital Association, said a new generation of health care apps could put the personal information of patients at risk, since the app developers would not be required to meet the same legal

standards for privacy that are imposed on hospitals.

"This could lead to third party apps using personal health information in ways in which patients are unaware," Pollack said in a statement.

The consumer advocacy group Public Citizen also criticized the new rules, saying they fail to guarantee that sensitive information

won't fall into the hands of third parties that could exploit it for profit.

CMS says it intends improve on health care privacy standards in the smart phone industry to provide consumers with a higher level of protection.

In addition to Azar, among the top administration officials joining to make the announcement were White House health policy chief Joe Grogan, CMS Administrator Seema Verma, and Donald Rucker, the government's National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

The administration's plan had been to make the announcement at a global health technology conference sponsored by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society in Orlando this week. But that event was canceled due to concerns about large gatherings where travelers can unwittingly spread coronavirus.

"Sorry we can't see you in Orlando, which was our original plan here," technology coordinator Rucker told reporters. □

Associated Press

Twitter in deal with Silver Lake, Elliott; Dorsey still CEO

By The Associated Press

Twitter says it's reached an investment deal with Silver Lake and Elliott Management that will keep Jack Dorsey as the social media company's CEO.

Twitter Inc. said Monday that Silver Lake will make a \$1 billion investment in the company. That money, along with cash on hand, is expected to be put toward a \$2 billion stock buyback. Elliott Management Corp., which owns about 4% of Twitter's stock, will get one seat on Twitter's board. Silver Lake will also get a board seat.

Prior media reports had suggested Elliott was planning to nominate four people to Twitter's board and oust Dorsey.

But the new agreement makes it seem likely he will stay. Twitter has lagged be-



In this June 7, 2019, file photo, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey leaves after his talk with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

Associated Press

hind businesses like Facebook and Google in terms of user growth and advertising revenue. CEO Jack Dorsey left the company to start payments company Square Inc., but returned in 2015. Now he splits his time between Square and Twitter. The new feature is

reminiscent of Instagram and Facebook "stories" and Snapchat's snaps, which let users post short-lived photos and messages. Such features are increasingly popular with social-media users looking for smaller groups and more private chats. □

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AP Explains: The oil market meltdown and its global impact

By **DAVID McHUGH**

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— A clash of two oil titans - Saudi Arabia and Russia - is sending shock waves through energy markets, with wide-ranging implications for consumers and oil companies, including those in the No. 1 producing country, the United States.

The spat between these vital oil suppliers comes at a critical moment; the coronavirus outbreak is squeezing economies around the globe to the point where world oil demand is forecast to shrink in 2020 for the first time since 2009.

Oil prices fell Monday by the most in one day since the 1991 Gulf War. The price of U.S. crude fell as much as 34% to \$27.34 a barrel, a stunning drop for one day and the lowest price since early 2016.

The decline followed Russia's refusal last week to join the OPEC oil cartel in proposed production cuts aimed at supporting prices. Thwarted in its search for cuts, Saudi Arabia, the leading OPEC member, sharply changed course over the weekend by cutting prices and signaling it will ramp up production.

Here is a look at the oil price war and what it could mean over the longer term in the industry as well as for consumers at the gas pump.

Q: WHY ARE OIL PRICES

FALLING?

A: First came the coronavirus outbreak, which reduced travel and transport, sharply reducing demand for fuel. The international Brent benchmark had fallen from \$69 at the start of the year to around \$50 last week.

Then came last week's meeting between OPEC and non-member countries. On the agenda: a production cut of 1.5 million barrels a day, or about 1.5% of global production. The idea was to keep prices from sagging even more as demand is expected to fall this year. Saudi Arabia, the world's No. 2 oil producer, wanted No. 3 Russia and other nonmembers to take 500,000 barrels per day of the cuts. Since 2016, the Saudis and the Russians have worked together on production issues.

But this time the Russians balked. They refused to join new cuts, or even to extend previous production cuts that were due to expire at the end of March. And the Saudis hit back, telling customers that they were going to ramp up production and slash prices for Asian customers.

Q: WHAT IS SAUDI ARABIA'S GOAL?

A: First, protecting market share. Both Saudi Arabia and Russia have seen U.S. producers take a chunk of their market, and falling prices help keep customers on board.



In this Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017, file photo, a flame burns at the Shell Deer Park oil refinery in Deer Park, Texas.

Associated Press

Second, Saudi Arabia may hope that the pain of low prices will force a Russian rethink. "Saudi Arabia has de facto launched a price war against Russia, promising to sell its oil at a discount in order to maximize its oil revenues," say analysts at UniCredit bank. "It appears Saudi Arabia wants to cement its position as the world's top oil exporter and to persuade Moscow to return to the negotiating table."

Q: WHAT'S BEHIND RUSSIA'S REFUSAL?

A: Russia may have seen no point in cutting production only to lose market share as U.S. shale producers in Texas and New Mexico take up the slack. Analysts say Saudi Arabia may be underestimating Russia's ability to weather low prices. Both countries are heavily dependent on oil revenues

for their state budgets. But Russia says it can balance its budget at around \$42 a barrel for its own benchmark crude. Saudi Arabia, whose economy is less diverse, needs more than \$80 per barrel, according to the International Monetary Fund, even though its costs are much lower than Russia's.

What Saudi Arabia has done is to send prices so low that both will feel a serious crunch.

And Russia may have a longer-term target: the U.S. oil industry.

"The Russians are doing this out of long-term strategic considerations," said Tom Adshead, research director for the Macro-Advisory consulting firm in Moscow. "Their view is that by doing this they can damage the financial health of U.S. shale-oil producers and that by doing this they can

take a lot of U.S. capacity offline and thereby remove U.S. producers as a source of competition. The other thing that is on their mind in all this is that if they cut then that will also primarily benefit U.S. producers."

"So they've decided they're going to take some short-term pain in order to inflict damage on one of their major competitors," Adshead said.

Stephen Innes, chief market strategist at financial services firm AxiCorp., says Russian President Vladimir Putin may also have decided to hit back at the U.S. industry after Washington placed sanctions on Russian state oil company Rosneft for marketing Venezuela's oil.

Q: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US PRODUCERS?

A: The current low prices could constrain activity in the American shale oil industry. A downturn in oil prices in 2014-2016 hurt companies in places like the Permian Basin in west Texas and eastern New Mexico. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, \$50 per barrel is the price at which it becomes profitable to drill a new well in the U.S. Large producers such as Exxon have already scaled back with prices at \$50 a barrel. In Texas, the number of active rigs fell from 553 in October 2018 to 398 in January 2020. Around the same time, the oil industry in Texas shed about 14,000 jobs. □

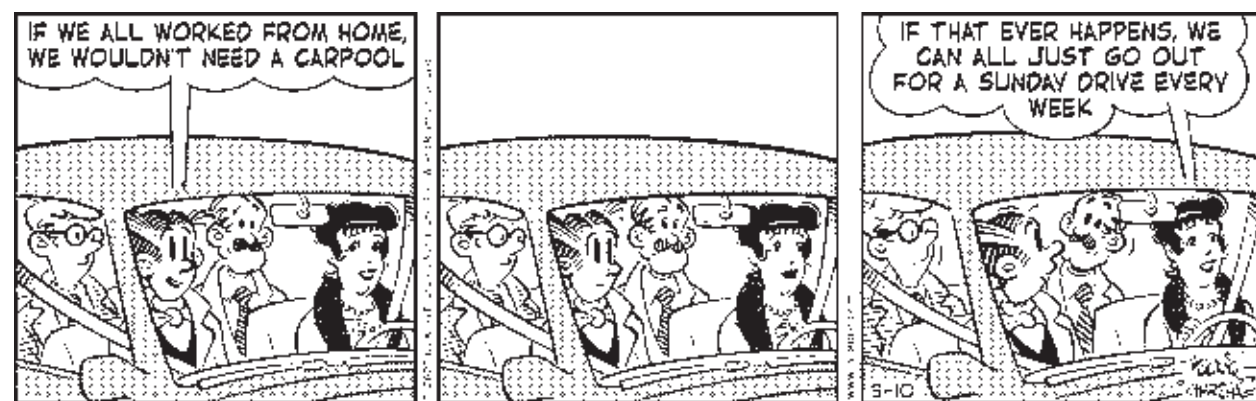
Mutts



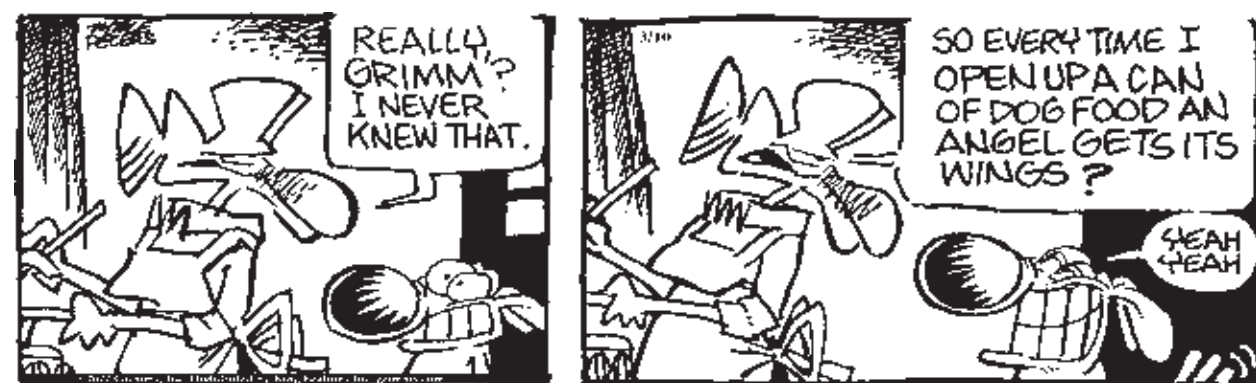
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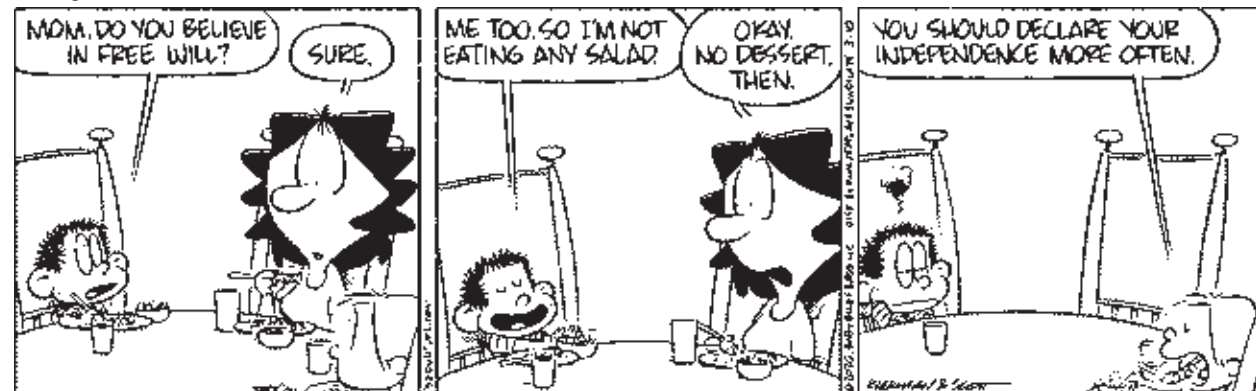
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



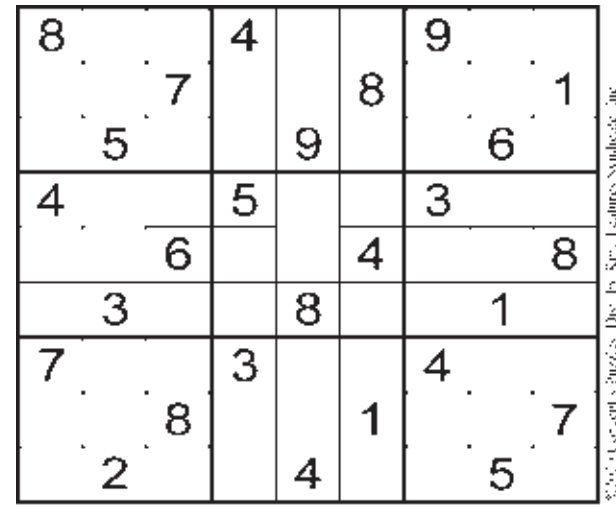
Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

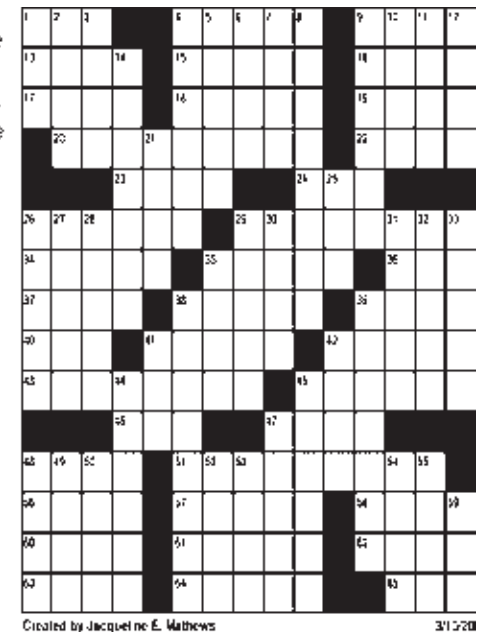
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| 9 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 |

ACROSS

- 1 Party pregame event
- 4 Place of retail
- 9 Sneezer or icicle
- 13 Semi-hard cheese
- 15 Two-lye showdown
- 18 Yankee Doodle's trounl
- 17 Life's cry to a cussybody
- 18 Christmas song
- 19 Vard's a faone
- 20 Jucy fruit
- 22 Log splitters
- 23 Cause pair to
- 24 'Big Brother' network
- 26 Speaks without preparation
- 29 Keeping an eye on
- 34 Detroit team
- 35 Summoned wth a beeper
- 36 Certain vote
- 37 Palm
- 38 over-studed ntently
- 39 Turn over
- 40 another: each other
- 41 Quizzes
- 42 Barn nexcoms
- 43 Written guarantee
- 45 Steely
- 46 Connecting word
- 47 Fanong macth
- 48 Alphabet
- 51 Siness
- 58 As crazy as a
- 57 Lasso loop
- 58 Try to find
- 60 Sulfur for honor or change
- 61 Vassachusetts university
- 62 Actor Alan Jr
- 63 The ... pper ol
- 64 Remains
- 65 Devious

DOWN

- 1 Woman's nickname
- 2 Genesis garden
- 3 Liver spread
- 4 Movie awards
- 5 from besides
- 6 Mumbai dress
- 7 Cast: skillet
- 8 Chose
- 9 Pool sound
- 10 Trick
- 11 more: again
- 12 Observes
- 14 Word with washing or sct
- 21 Margarine holders often
- 25 A's to towers
- 26 Permit
- 27 Rigg or Ross
- 28 Company shunner
- 29 Like a road's skin
- 30 Generations
- 31 Relative by marriage
- 32 Mancun's focus
- 33 Entertainer Rose Lee
- 35 Pillar
- 38 Necklace ornaments
- 39 Harebrained
- 41 Brown shade
- 42 Asaire or Savage
- 44 Poured
- 45 Under ... being forced
- 47 Singer Springfield
- 48 Enve ope par
- 49 Asian desert
- 50 Gopher's home
- 52 Boxing match
- 53 Piece of furniture
- 54 Oolong & pekoe
- 55 Ho'er
- 58 Essential



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

3/12/20

Monday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|------------|------------|-------|
| FID | ABBOT | POLK |
| BLUE | BRINE | LION |
| BERN | HULLABALOO | |
| CAN | COCKY | EGYPT |
| AWARE | TAU | |
| PERILS | SHREDS | |
| IRONS | FRAUD | WE |
| GNUS | WRENS | PLEA |
| SIN | COEDS | MAIDS |
| EDWARD | TARGET | |
| ITE | WIDTH | |
| PHONE | SCALE | TOE |
| LIVERWURST | UFOS | |
| OVER | EMOTE | PUPS |
| DENY | TOWED | ALS |

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3/9/20

North Carolina woman goes to jail for 100th birthday

Associated Press

ROXBORO, N.C. (AP) — For her 100th birthday, Ruth Bryant crossed a significant item off her bucket list. She went to jail.

The Person County Sheriff's Office helped fulfill Bryant's unusual wish when two deputies showed up at her assisted living facility to serve her a warrant charging her with indecent exposure, news outlets reported.

The two deputies handcuffed Bryant to her walker and placed her in a patrol car, giving her the full experience with lights and sirens flashing and blaring. Before she got in, the deputies warned her not to put up a fight, and she playfully kicked at them, WRAL reported. □

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Classifieds

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For Rent

Renaissance suites

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Date :3/6/20 to 3/20/20
Marriott Ocean Club
1 BR sleep 4 \$ 3 K
Date : 3/20/20 to 3/27/20

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Season
1BR Ocean View \$ 10 K
1 BR Ocean Front \$20 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17K
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Season
2 BR Ocean View \$16K
2 BR Ocean side \$17K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26K
3 BR Ocean view \$28K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH wk 11/12 \$35 K each
Building 9 on the 7th floor
30 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Studio wk 5,7,8 \$8K each
Birdie 1 on ground floor
22/27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Studio wk 5,6,7,8,9
Same room birdie 9
3rd floor 33 weeks remain
Each \$10 K each

Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 8/9 \$9,5 K each
Eagle 9 ground floor
27 /19 weeks remain
1 BR wk 11 \$9 K
Birdie 3 with 26weeks remain

212587

Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 12/13 \$9,5 K each
Birdie 10 ground floor
33/34 weeks remain
Divi Village
2 BR wk 13 \$14 K
Building C 28weeks remain

Renaissance suites

1 BR wk 9 \$7,5K
On the 4 th floor
Harbor view
Playa Linda beach Resort
Studio wk 10 and 11 \$25 K both
1st floor pool/ocean view

Dutch Village

1BR wk 9 old contract
16 weeks remain \$7,5K
1 BR wk 8 \$ 8 K
12 weeks remain

Dutch Village

1 BR wk 7 and 8 \$8K each
15 weeks remain each
2 BR wk 7 \$16K
23 weeks remain

Casa del Mar

1 BR wk 12 \$7,5 K
La cabana beach and casino
1 BR wk 11/12 \$8,5 K each
4th floor pool/ocean view
Sunday check in

Eagle Resorts

1 BR wk 7,8,9 \$7,5 K each
Le Vent Condo
3 BR , 2 Bath \$650 K

Caribbean Palm Village

1BR wk 13 \$6k each on sd floor
1BR wk14
Ground floor

Playa Linda

Sell by Owner
1bedroom (#641) wk13
Sleeps 4 available this year-
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212554

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week 1,2,3,4+5,6
1 BR 1st floor \$6500

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2 BR wk 51-52 \$15000 each
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Cel. 1518 965 7878
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San Nicolas

Dr. Veringa
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| | |
|----------------|----------|
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| Noord | 527 3200 |
| Sta. Cruz | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141 |
| Ambulancia | 911 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Red Cross | 582 2219 |

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| Taxi D.T.S. | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
| A1 Taxi Serv. | 280 2828 |

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| | |
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| Aruba Airport | 524 2424 |
| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
| Avianca | 588 0059 |
| Jet Blue | 588 2244 |
| Surinam | 582 7896 |

CRUISES



| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| March 11 | March 12 |
| MeinSchiff 2 | Carnival Horizon |
| Zuiderdam | |
| Freewinds | |

AID FOUNDATIONS

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
Tel. 583 5400

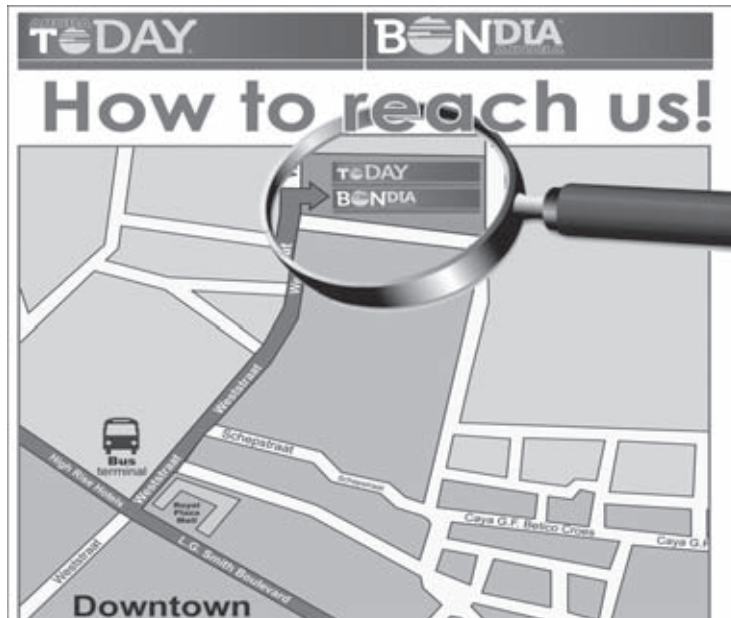
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Doctors try 1st CRISPR editing in the body for blindness

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**

Scientists say they have used the gene editing tool CRISPR inside someone's body for the first time, a new frontier for efforts to operate on DNA, the chemical code of life, to treat diseases.

A patient recently had it done at the Casey Eye Institute at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland for an inherited form of blindness, the companies that make the treatment announced Wednesday. They would not give details on the patient or when the surgery occurred.

It may take up to a month to see if it worked to restore vision. If the first few attempts seem safe, doctors plan to test it on 18 children and adults.

"We literally have the potential to take people who are essentially blind and make them see," said Charles Albright, chief scientific officer at Editas Medicine, the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based company developing the treatment with Dublin-based Allergan. "We think it could open up a whole new set of medicines to go in and change your DNA." Dr. Jason Comander, an eye surgeon at Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston, another hospital that plans to enroll patients in the study, said it marks "a new era in medicine" using a technology that "makes editing DNA much easier and much more effective." Doctors first tried in-the-body gene editing in 2017 for a different inherited disease using a tool called zinc fingers.

Many scientists believe CRISPR is a much easier tool for locating and cutting DNA at a specific spot, so interest in the new re-



In this undated photo provided by the Oregon Health & Science University on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, Dr. Andreas Lauer, right, prepares to perform the first-ever in vivo CRISPR gene edit procedure for the BRILLIANCE clinical trial at the school's Casey Eye Institute in Portland, on a patient who had an inherited form of blindness.

search is very high.

The people in this study have Leber congenital amaurosis, caused by a gene mutation that keeps the body from making a protein needed to convert light into signals to the brain, which enables sight. They're often born with little vision and can lose even that within a few years.

Scientists can't treat it with standard gene therapy -- supplying a replacement gene -- because the one needed is too big to fit inside the disabled viruses that are used to ferry it into cells.

So they're aiming to edit, or delete the mutation by making two cuts on either side of it. The hope is that the ends of DNA will reconnect and allow the gene to

work as it should.

It's done in an hour-long surgery under general anesthesia.

Through a tube the width of a hair, doctors drip three drops of fluid containing the gene editing machinery just beneath the retina, the lining at the back of the eye that contains the light-sensing cells.

"Once the cell is edited, it's permanent and that cell will persist hopefully for the life of the patient," because these cells don't divide, said one study leader not involved in this first case, Dr. Eric Pierce at Massachusetts Eye and Ear.

Doctors think they need to fix one tenth to one third of the cells to restore vision. In animal tests, scientists were able to correct half of the cells with the treatment, Albright said.

The eye surgery itself poses little risk, doctors say. Infections and bleeding are relatively rare complications. One of the biggest potential risks from gene editing is that CRISPR could make unintended changes in other genes, but the companies have done a lot to minimize

that and to ensure that the treatment cuts only where it's intended to, Pierce said. He has consulted for Editas and helped test a gene therapy, Luxturna, that's sold for a different type of inherited blindness.

Some independent experts were optimistic about the new study.

"The gene editing approach is really exciting. We need technology that will be able to deal with problems like these large genes," said Dr. Jean Bennett, a University of Pennsylvania researcher who helped test Luxturna at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

In one day, she had three calls from families seeking solutions to inherited blindness.

"It's a terrible disease," she said. "Right now they have nothing."

Dr. Kiran Musunuru, another gene editing expert at the University of Pennsylvania, said the treatment seems likely to work, based on tests in human tissue, mice and monkeys.

Full Coverage: Health

The gene editing tool stays

in the eye and does not travel to other parts of the body, so "if something goes wrong, the chance of harm is very small," he said. "It makes for a good first step for doing gene editing in the body."

Although the new study is the first to use CRISPR to edit a gene inside the body, another company, Sangamo Therapeutics, has been testing zinc finger gene editing to treat metabolic diseases.

Other scientists are using CRISPR to edit cells outside the body to try to treat cancer, sickle cell and some other diseases.

All of these studies have been done in the open, with government regulators' approval, unlike a Chinese scientist's work that brought international scorn in 2018.

He Jiankui used CRISPR to edit embryos at the time of conception to try to make them resistant to infection with the AIDS virus. Changes to embryos' DNA can pass to future generations, unlike the work being done now in adults to treat diseases. □

Associated Press

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Review: Authors look at 'The Greatest Year at the Movies'

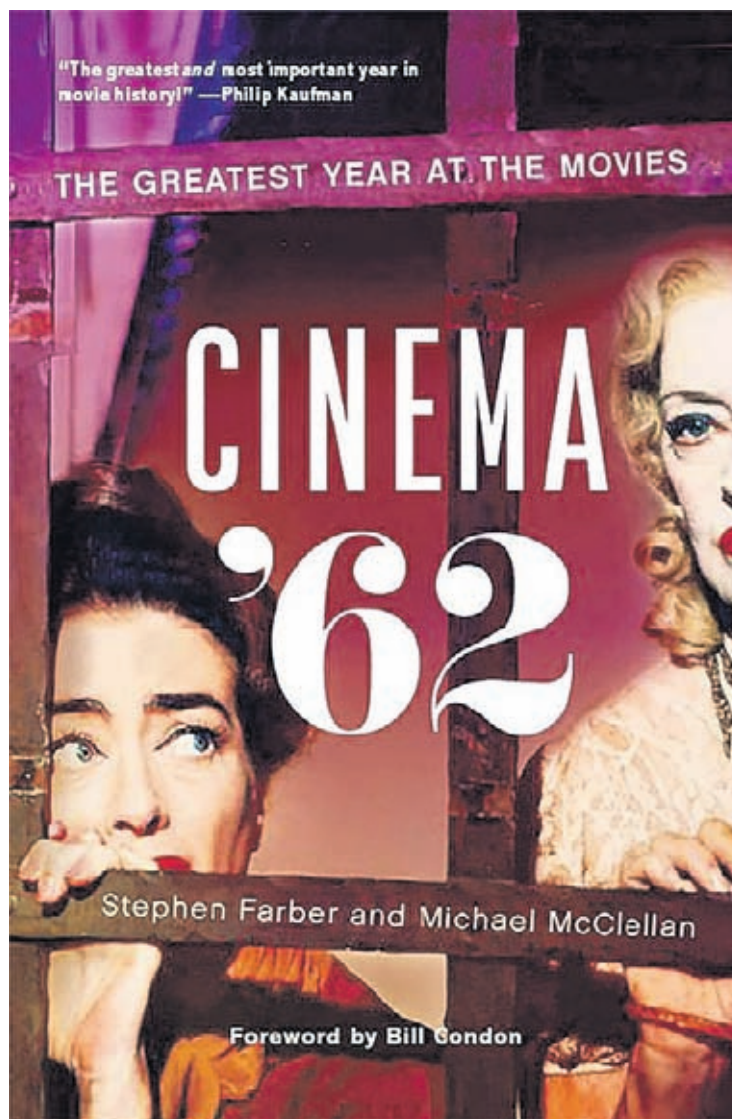
By **LEE D. MITGANG**
Associated Press

"Cinema '62: The Greatest Year at the Movies," Rutgers University Press, by Stephen Farber and Michael McClellan

What was the greatest year in cinema history? Among film fans and critics, 1939 has long been a favorite pick. Hollywood's studio system was at its peak that year and cranked out an astonishing number of crowd-pleasing, star-studded films including "The Wizard of Oz," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Ninotchka," "Stagecoach" and "Dark Victory." At the top of that formidable heap was "Gone with the Wind," which won eight Oscars, including best picture. A new history by Los Angeles film critics and scholars Stephen Farber and Michael McClellan offers a different and, for many, surprising alternative. In their audaciously titled "Cinema '62: The Greatest Year at the Movies," they argue that the early '60s in general - and 1962 in particular -- deserve recognition not just for big-wave beach movies, but also for new-wave films from abroad and for the emergence of a generation of American auteurs who were fashioning a mold-breaking new Hollywood. Strictly by numbers, 1962 may not have

produced as many enduring classics as 1939, a year that placed 19 films on the Library of Congress' prestigious National Film Registry, more than twice the eight such films from 1962. But 1962's importance rests on the artistic daring of its films, and on the unprecedented willingness of filmmakers to tackle taboo subjects at a time when the production codes and the censorious Legion of Decency still wielded influence on Hollywood producers and American audiences.

Echoing the emerging civil rights spirit of the early '60s, for example, "To Kill a Mockingbird" poignantly indicted racial injustice though not without objections from film raters for its frequent use of the "n-word." "Lolita" depicted an older man's obsession with a preadolescent girl. The British import "A Taste of Honey" offered an unusually adult portrayal of homosexuality and scored well with audiences. Bosley Crowther, The New York Times' powerful film critic, called it the year's best film. Hollywood's studio system may have been declining in 1962 but reliable stars like Doris Day, John Wayne, James Stewart and Bette Davis still churned out an impressive number of hit films. Wayne and Stewart starred in director John



This cover image released by Rutgers University Press shows "Cinema '62: The Greatest Year at the Movies" by Stephen Farber and Michael McClellan.

Associated Press

Ford's "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance." Screen veteran Rosalind Russell put an indelible stamp on the lead role of Rose in "Gypsy." Davis and Joan Crawford gave unforgettably creepy performances

in the psychological thriller "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?," whose poster the authors feature on their book jacket.

From abroad, filmmakers were drawing American audiences as never before

with movies that broke new artistic ground. Among them were Federico Fellini ("La Dolce Vita"), Francois Truffaut ("Jules et Jim"), Tony Richardson ("The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner"), Pietro Germi ("Divorce Italian Style") and Michelangelo Antonioni ("La Notte").

The authors add spice and credibility to their history with interviews of survivors of 1962 filmmaking, including Mariette Hartley who made her debut in director Sam Peckinpah's "Ride the High Country"; Shirley Knight, who starred with Paul Newman in the sexually charged "Sweet Bird of Youth"; and Angela Lansbury, who gave a deliciously villainous performance in director John Frankenheimer's "The Manchurian Candidate."

The book ends with a chapter-long appraisal of David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia," 1962's most honored, commercially successful and technically dazzling film. It featured a sophisticated plot replete with political chicanery, colonialism and a subtle depiction of the title character's homosexuality, and a superb cast of old hands like Claude Rains as well as relative newcomers Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif. Yet fascinatingly, it drew only mixed reviews. □

Sesame's Count wants to get young children counted in census

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — No other age group was under-counted more during the last once-a-decade census than children under age 5, researchers say. Sesame Street is hoping to use Count von Count to change that.

The Muppet best known as the Count is joining Elmo, Rosita and her mom, Rosa, in public service announcements filmed on the set of the long-running educational television show. The spots encourage parents of young children to make sure they and their children

are counted in the 2020 census. The public service announcements in English and Spanish started airing Monday. The head count starts for most people this Thursday.

In the ad, the Count plays a census taker. Casting for the spots was purposeful, Sesame Workshop officials said. "Rosita is a bilingual Muppet. Elmo is popular and connected to young children and families, and the Count is so logical when it comes to being counted," said Jeanette Betancourt, Sesame Workshop's senior vice president of U.S. Social Impact. The Sesame Street charac-



This May 30, 2018 file photo shows Sesame Street character Count von Count at Sesame Workshop's 16th annual Benefit Gala in New York.

Associated Press

ters are joining a growing group of celebrities using their influence to encourage people to be count-

ed. Morgan Freeman made a public service announcement for census outreach efforts in Missis-

ssippi. "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda and U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez cut one for New York City. Sesame Workshop also is offering on its website fliers and information about the census that can be downloaded and distributed.

Demographers estimate that 4.6% percent of children under 5, or 1 million children, weren't counted in the 2010 census. The under-counting was worst in minority communities, with under-counting for Hispanic children estimated at 7.5% and for black children at 6.3%, according to researchers. □



In this Friday, Oct. 16, 2015 file photo, actor Max Von Sydow attends the Lumiere Award ceremony of the 7th Lumiere Festival in Lyon, central France.

Associated Press

'Exorcist' actor Max von Sydow dies at age 90

By JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press
COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Max von Sydow, the self-described "shy boy"-turned-actor known to art house audiences through his work with Swedish director Ingmar Bergman and later to moviegoers everywhere when he played the priest in the horror classic "The Exorcist," has died. He was 90.

His agent Jean Diamond said Monday the actor, who was born in Sweden but became a French citizen in 2002, died the previous day in France.

"It is with a broken heart and with infinite sadness that we have the extreme pain of announcing the departure of Max von Sydow," Diamond said.

From his 1949 screen debut in the Swedish film "Only a Mother," von Sydow starred in close to 200 film and TV productions, remaining active well into his 80s.

He received two Academy Award nominations — for best actor in 1988 for his gripping portrayal of an impoverished farmer in "Pelle the Conqueror," and best supporting actor in 2012 for his role as a mute in "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close."

More recently, he received an Emmy nomination for his work as the Three-Eyed Raven in HBO's "Game of Thrones."

The Swede was a mainstay of nearly a dozen classic, angst-ridden films by Bergman, including "Wild Strawberries," "Shame" and the 1957 release "The Seventh Seal," in which he featured in one of Bergman's most memorable scenes, as the medieval knight who plays a game of chess against the grim reaper.

Actress Inga Landgre, 92, who appeared with him in "The Seventh Seal" told Sweden's news agency TT that "there was a sense of security in his radiance" adding, "his presence was his strength."

Von Sydow made his Hollywood debut as Jesus in

the 1965 film "The Greatest Story Ever Told," but gained widespread international fame as the devil-evicting priest in William Friedkin's controversial 1973 film "The Exorcist."

Tall and lanky, with sullen blue eyes, a narrow face, pale complexion and a deep and accented speaking voice, von Sydow was often typecast in Hollywood as the sophisticated villain.

"What I as an actor look for is a variety of parts. It is very boring to be stuck in more or less one type of character," he once said in an interview.

In 1980, von Sydow starred as the evil emperor Ming the Merciless in "Flash Gordon." He turned down the role as the sinister Dr. No in the first James Bond film with the same name, but later appeared as the cat-stroking villain Ernst Blofeld in the 1983 "Never Say Never Again," starring Sean Connery as Bond.

He also played a tormented painter in Woody Allen's "Hannah and Her Sisters" and portrayed the devil in "Needful Things," a 1991 horror film based on a novel by Stephen King. In 2015, he appeared briefly in the blockbuster "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

While his characters were often sinister, tormented or evil, the soft-spoken von Sydow said he became an actor to overcome his own shyness.

"I was a very shy boy when I was a kid," he said in an Associated Press interview. "When I started acting in an amateur group in high school, although I wasn't aware of it at the time, I suddenly got a tool in my hand that was wonderful.

I was allowed to express all kinds of strange things that I never dared to express before.

Now I could do it with the character as a shield, as a defense, and as an excuse. "I think that for many years I used my profession as some kind of a mental therapy."

Von Sydow was born April

10, 1929, into a family of academics in the southern Swedish city of Lund. He was baptized Carl Adolf von Sydow, but later changed his first name to Max, saying his given name was "not a good name" after World War II.

Although his family was not interested in theater, he said his father was a master of telling adventure stories that fueled his imagination as a child.

He decided he wanted to be an actor and formed a theater society with his friends after seeing his first play, William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," at age 14.

He studied at the Royal Dramatic Theater in Stockholm and acted in small municipality theaters in Sweden for eight years — an experience he later described as crucial for his career.

"I'm very grateful to the schooling I had in Sweden because in order to learn acting you have to work, work, work," he said.

"I think I owe very much to those years."

It was during this period he first met Bergman. In addition to "The Seventh Seal," he would star in 10 other Bergman films, including "The Magician," "The Virgin Spring" and "Wild Strawberries," and develop a close relationship with Sweden's most famous moviemaker.

"I can't say exactly what influence he's had on me, but it must be enormous," he said of Bergman.

"We did most of that work when we were much younger. We were free — he hadn't yet become world famous and I was just a regular stage actor with a few film roles to my credit. We worked hard and had a lot of fun."

Von Sydow married Swedish actress Christina Olin in 1951 and had two sons, Clas and Henrik.

The couple later divorced and he married French filmmaker Catherine Brelet in 1997, with whom he had two more sons, Yvan and Cedric. □

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Zeppelin wins latest battle of the bands in 'Stairway' fight

By ANDREW DALTON

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal appeals court on Monday restored a jury verdict that found Led Zeppelin did not steal "Stairway to Heaven."

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco handed the major win to guitarist Jimmy Page and singer Robert Plant and dealt a blow to the estate of Randy Wolfe of the band Spirit. The estate claimed that the 1971 mega-hit "Stairway to Heaven" violated the copyright of the 1968 song "Taurus."

A majority of an 11-judge panel overturned a previous ruling that the jury in the 2016 trial should have heard the recording of "Taurus" and was given poor instructions before jurors found in favor of Page and Plant.

The composition of the two songs, not their recordings, were at issue in the case, but the plaintiffs had sought to play the two recordings for jurors as part of their argument that Page had access to the song "Taurus" as required to prove a copyright violation.

Monday's ruling found that because the jury found



This Oct. 9, 2012 file photo shows Led Zeppelin members, from left, Jason Bonham, Robert Plant, John Paul Jones and Jimmy Page at the "Led Zeppelin: Celebration Day" premiere in New York.

Associated Press

that Page did have access to the song that the issue was irrelevant, and playing the recording might have prejudiced the jury to consider more than just the compositions.

"When Page testified, he candidly admitted to owning 'a copy of the album that contains 'Taurus,'" the ruling states. The jury found that both Page and Plant had access to the musical composition Taurus before

"Stairway to Heaven" was created, it said.

"Once the jury made that finding, the remaining questions on the jury verdict form related to substantial similarity of the works."

Many of the judges were skeptical at the case's hearing in September over the playing of the recording, suggesting that it was a backdoor way for the plaintiffs to get the jury to hear the record.

"You've got to get your sound recording in to win, don't you?" Judge Andrew D. Hurwitz said as he questioned Wolfe estate attorney Francis Malofiy. "You lose the case unless you do. A hundred times out of a hundred."

The 9th Circuit also broke with its own precedent on the question of jury instructions and rejected the so-called "inverse ratio" rule, which held that the more

the plaintiffs could prove that an alleged song thief had access to the original material, the lower the standard became for finding the two works similar.

The judge in the trial court did not instruct the jury on the rule. Monday's decision found that he did not need to.

Emails seeking comment from attorneys for both sides were not immediately returned.

At issue is the classic acoustic introductory lick to "Stairway to Heaven," constantly played by amateurs in guitar shops for nearly 50 years, and the riff at the center of the Spirit instrumental "Taurus," which follows a similar musical line.

The ruling, which can be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, is a potentially precedent-setting win for musical acts accused of plagiarism, and comes in a period when many star songwriters have lost high-profile cases.

Jurors decided in a 2015 trial that Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" copied Marvin Gaye's "Got to Give It Up," and a jury last year found that Katy Perry's hit "Dark Horse" copied from a Christian rap song. □

Despite drama, Megan Thee Stallion happy to release music

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Megan Thee Stallion says she works extremely hard in the studio writing music, and so became more than a little worried when she almost couldn't release her new album because of a dispute with her record label. "I was super nervous," she said in an interview with The Associated Press this week after a Houston judge ordered the Friday release of her album as her bitter court battle with her label continues.

"I'm super passionate about music. I love the fact that music is what connects me to my hotties, so not being able to put out music, that would hurt my relationship with my listeners," she continued. "I'm like, 'Oh thank you Lord' when I found out I could drop new music."

Megan Thee Stallion.

The 25-year-old released the

nine-track album, "Suga," on Friday. It comes after the release of the projects "Fever" and "Tina Snow" that helped establish Stallion's name in hip-hop, and even on the pop charts. Last year she made the 2019 TIME 100 Next List, was named one of the AP's Breakthrough Entertainers of the Year, won prizes at the MTV Video Music Awards and BET Hip-Hop Awards, and was honored by Variety and Billboard magazines.

But not everything has been going smoothly.

Megan Thee Stallion.

The performer posted on social media that she and her management team at Jay-Z's Roc Nation company tried to renegotiate a bad contract she signed years ago with Houston-based record label 1501 Certified Entertainment. It's become a battle marked by rancorous social media exchanges that Stallion

and her associates regarded as threatening and intimidating.

Stallion accused the label of not sharing data on her music sales with her management. She said that when they sought to renegotiate terms of her record contract as a result, the threats and attempts at intimidation increased. Representatives for 1501 didn't immediately reply to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Stallion got a small win in court Monday when State District Judge Robert Schaffer issued the initial temporary restraining order that barred 1501 from withholding release of her music on schedule. State District Judge Beau Miller reaffirmed the order Wednesday while denying 1501's appeal, and a March 13 hearing has been scheduled for her request for a temporary injunction against the label.



In this Dec. 7, 2019 file photo, Megan Thee Stallion attends the 2019 Variety's Hitmakers Brunch at Soho House in West Hollywood, Calif.

Associated Press

Stallion said she's happy she decided to sign with Roc Nation to help manage her growing career. □

Cameron and Lauren share lessons, life after 'Love Is Blind'

By **RAGAN CLARK**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Cameron Hamilton had never seen Lauren Speed when he got down on one knee. Speed had never seen Hamilton when she said yes.

The couple met on "Love Is Blind," a Netflix reality show where couples who have never seen each other face-to-face can decide to get engaged based on the emotional connection they make while dating in "pods." After getting engaged, they finally see each other, take a trip, meet the family and have a wedding.

AP recently sat down with the married couple to find out what's happened in the year and a half since the show was filmed and their feelings about the experience.

Answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: How has it been since the show?

LAUREN SPEED: It's been amazing. Just the outpouring of love from people, you know, not only here in the States, as they say, but from around the world, just people saying that they're inspired by our story, that they can relate to our story.

CAMERON HAMILTON: Yeah, we never imagined that our love story would have this type of impact. I think, when we fell for each other, that was the focus, was making our relationship work.

AP: Was it a challenge hiding your relationship?

HAMILTON: Absolutely. And, you know, we wanted to live our lives and, you know, like we went to vacation together in Cancun and some of the fans saw the reflection of Lauren in my sunglasses and dissected it.

SPEED: Literally zoomed in, like, 'Wait, that's Lauren. That's her shape, that's the color she had on.' So that was kind of crazy.

HAMILTON: Yeah. Even like the Christmas tree. Lauren had a Christmas tree on Facebook. I think I had one on Instagram, (they) compared the decorations on

the tree. So, it's wild.

AP: What has taken place over the last year and a half?

HAMILTON: We've been

of made it like right at the forefront. Like every time we sat down, it's like, 'You know, I'm black and you're white.' 'Hey, you're white

mit before this show, like, I stayed in my apartment. And now I'm talking about being married and sharing a space and having a

SPEED: We cry a lot. We're a crying relationship.

AP: You do see men cry on the show.

SPEED: It's so important for men to be comfortable with their emotions. It's like men feel like you can't be masculine and also willing to be vulnerable when it comes to love or even just in general with, you know, showing your emotions. So I think that a lot of people really appreciated that with you.

HAMILTON: And my viewpoint on it is ... if you're willing to be that vulnerable to show how sensitive you are, to me, it's a sign of strength. I'm not afraid to show my emotions. I know people might think it's not masculine to cry, but I mean, I'm a very sensitive person, emotional person. So, I'm going to put it out there and that's just how it is.

AP: What was the biggest thing you learned?

SPEED: That vulnerability is strength. And that love is not aesthetic. It's so much deeper than that. Like it's about your heart. I know that sounds cheesy, but it's so true. Like it's not surface.

HAMILTON: Yeah. And on that same vein, I think that people shouldn't be afraid to be who they are. You know, they shouldn't feel pressure to perform. You know, I think people can relate to you the most when you are just yourself. Even if it's a little awkward or goofy.

SPEED: And love who you love. There's somebody out there who will love you for you exactly how you are. Like, you don't have to change yourself to make somebody like you. Be yourself.

AP: What's next?

SPEED: So, Cameron and I, we know that there has been a lot of supporters that are like, you know, 'What are you guys doing now?' ... So, we're starting YouTube to kind of continue letting our family, as we call them, into our life, like our day to day. It's called 'Hanging with the Hamiltons.' So, we're excited to continue our journey with you guys. □



This image released by Netflix shows Cameron Hamilton, left, and Lauren Speed in a scene from the romance reality series "Love Is Blind."

Associated Press

growing together every day. I think we've started to kind of mirror each other and pick up some of our attributes that we have. I mean, everyone sees Lauren. She's such an outgoing, fun person. So, I look up to that aspect of her. I want to be more like that.

SPEED: Ahh, babe. Well yeah, just continuing to blend our lives and blend our families, raise our fur baby. ... You know, it's almost like we're still dating because we got married and then we're kind of like dating each other. So, we're in a fun dating adventure.

AP: You talked about being an interracial couple on the show. Did you feel that was over-dramatized?

SPEED: I feel like, you know, as an interracial couple, it's definitely something that we addressed and we talked about and we communicated about. And I was very transparent with Cameron about how I was feeling. And even with the show, talking to the people or the audience, you know, just sharing my emotions and feelings, I wanted to be authentic. I wanted to be real... But it seems like the show kind

and I'm black.' But it wasn't like that.

HAMILTON: And it was important to us to talk about, of course. So, it's good that it was covered in the show, absolutely. I would have liked to have seen even more content of our dates and the things that we talked about, you know, like how we were going to raise a family together, you know, how we would discipline our kids together. You know, these types of conversations that added more layers to our relationship.

AP: Lauren, did you decide to keep your apartment?

SPEED: After we got married, I ended up keeping my apartment for about three months... But after three months, I was like, you know what? I'm all in. So, I ended up getting rid of my apartment and (I'm) fully in our house. Now, I just have my space in our house where I just go and close the door if I need some space.

AP: When did you know that you would say 'yes' at the altar?

SPEED: It was a decision that I didn't take lightly... So, I would say even up until that day... I was a her-

husband and becoming a wife. So that's a big thing. So, I really thought about it thoroughly, and I'm happy with my choice.

HAMILTON: It's hard to say what day, you know, in the process, but, it had gotten to a point where I had asked Lauren all the questions that I felt like I needed to ask.

You know, ruled out any possible red flags. You know, we talked about long-term compatibility, family values, how we're going to balance a household together, responsibilities, all these different things.

And I mean, every conversation we had, I never had any doubt instilled in my mind from the conversations, it just felt right.

SPEED: Yeah, I was like, 'You don't have any doubts? Not one? Come on. You've got one. And he was like, 'No.' So, I mean... it helped me realize, like, 'Wow, this man really loves me.' Like I've never had someone that was so ready and loving and willing.

Like, 'No, I know you're my wife.' Like, no doubts. So, yeah, that was beautiful... Are you crying?

HAMILTON: No, I'm not.